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FBIS-EAS-92-023 CONTENTS *4 February 1992*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Miyazawa Apologizes for U.S. Work Ethic Remarks *[KYODO]* 1
  Says Criticism of U.S. Not Intended *[KYODO]* 1
Envoy Sees Need for Improving U.S. Education *[Tokyo TV]* 1
Surplus 'Unlikely To Reignite' Trade Friction *[KYODO]* 2
Bilateral GATT Market Access Talks Hit Snag *[KYODO]* 2
IBM Supplying Hard Disk Drives to Sharp *[KYODO]* 3
Phillips Petroleum Tokyo Joint Venture To End *[KYODO]* 3
Comments on Kadena Base Reorganization Reported 3
  Foreign Ministry Views Issue *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 1 Feb]* 3
  Editorial Expresses Opposition *[OKINAWA TIMES 2 Feb]* 4
Miyazawa Returns Home From UN Summit 2 Feb *[KYODO]* 4
Companies To Export Container Ships to PRC *[KYODO]* 4
Michio Watanabe Outlines Food Aid for CIS *[KYODO]* 5
Hokkaido To Send Mission to Sakhalin for Talks *[KYODO]* 5
Tokyo 'Not Optimistic' on Islands Solution *[KYODO]* 5
Plans To Purchase Russian Plutonium Denied *[KYODO]* 5
Mission Leaves for Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan 4 Feb *[KYODO]* 6
Computer Software Firm Hires Russian Engineers *[KYODO]* 6
Joint Telecom Venture With Russia Launched *[KYODO]* 6
Nissan To Halt Car Production in Australia *[KYODO]* 6
Tokyo 'Disappointed' at Cambodia Talks Exclusion *[KYODO]* 7
Takeshita Presses SRV To Improve U.S. Ties *[KYODO]* 7
Firm Plans Return to SRV Construction Market *[KYODO]* 7
Tokyo Provides Grant-in-Aid to Philippines *[KYODO]* 8
Tokyo Decides To Sign Latin American Fund Pact *[KYODO]* 8
Tunisian Planning Minister Seeks Investment *[KYODO]* 8
Government To 'Review' 1976 Basic Defense Plan *[KYODO]* 8
Illegal Foreign Residents Said To Increase 50% *[KYODO]* 9
Prosecutors Indict Fumio Abe on Bribery Charges *[KYODO]* 10
  Further on Indictment *[KYODO]* 10
  Lawyers Ask for Bail *[KYODO]* 10
  Bail Order Issued *[KYODO]* 11
Miyazawa: Abe Has Choice in Resignation Issue *[KYODO]* 11
Shiozaki Said To Acknowledge Bribe From Kyowa *[KYODO]* 11
Justice Minister on Monitoring of Investigations *[KYODO]* 11
Debate Over Witnesses May Delay Diet Panel *[KYODO]* 12
Business Leader Urges Diet Debate on Reform *[KYODO]* 13
Toyota Reports Compensation Receipt to Ministry *[KYODO]* 13
Banks To Begin New Fund Managing Instrument *[KYODO]* 13
Brokerages, Trust Banks Warned Against Paybacks *[KYODO]* 14
Foreign Exchange Reserves Decrease Reported *[KYODO]* 14
Bank of Japan Executive Directors Appointed *[KYODO]* 14
Hata Says Economy Currently in Adjustment Phase *[KYODO]* 14
Motor Vehicle Sales Decrease From Year Ago *[KYODO]* 15
RISC 64-Bit Microprocessor Lineup Unveiled *[KYODO]* 15
'Pessimism' in Small, Medium-Sized Enterprises *[KYODO]* 15
Overtime Conditions Said Worse Than Reported *[KYODO]* 16
Appliance Industry Asked To Conserve Resources *[KYODO]* 16

North Korea

- Kim Yong-nam Returns From Cambodia, Laos, SRV *[KCNA]* 16
- Remarks by U.S. Forces Commander Condemned *[KCNA]* 16
- Daily: U.S., South 'Have Not Changed' Stance *[KCNA]* 17
- South Urged To Abolish National Security Law *[KCNA]* 17
- South Korea-Japan Treaty Compensation Assailed *[Pyongyang Radio]* 18
- South Farmers' Rice Protest Viewed *[KCNA]* 19
- Daily Praises Success of ASEAN Summit Meeting *[KCNA]* 20
- Olympic Committee Delegation Returns Home 28 Jan *[Pyongyang Radio]* 20
- Kim Il-song Sends Message to SRV's Do Muoi *[KCNA]* 20
- SPA Delegation Meets With Egyptian Counterparts *[Pyongyang Radio]* 20
- Import-Export Agreement Signed With Finland *[KCNA]* 21

South Korea

- Skepticism in West on DPRK Denuclearization *[YONHAP]* 21
- DPRK Envoy Sets Schedule for Nuclear Accords *[Seoul Radio]* 21
- ROK To Propose Mutual Nuclear Inspection in Feb *[Seoul Radio]* 21
- DPRK Vice Foreign Minister on Japan Talks *[CHOSON ILBO 1 Feb]* 22
- Government To Buy Enriched Uranium From China *[HANGUK ILBO 3 Feb]* 23
- Agreement With PRC To Develop Sanjiang Plain *[TONG-A ILBO 1 Feb]* 23
- Trade Representative to Beijing Interviewed *[Seoul TV]* 23
- Russian Official Expects Agricultural Cooperation *[KYONGHYANG SINMUN 1 Feb]* 24
- Enterprise Promotes Joint Bank With Vietnam *[TONG-A ILBO 2 Feb]* 24
- Justice Ministry Cracks Down on Illegal Aliens *[YONHAP]* 25
- Automakers Seek To Expand Latin American Markets *[THE KOREA HERALD 1 Feb]* 25
- Construction Ministry Announces Road Expansion *[THE KOREA TIMES 2 Feb]* 25
- Minister Pledges Semiconductor Research Support *[THE KOREA TIMES 1 Feb]* 25

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

- Army Continues Attack Against KNU Headquarters *[London International]* 27
- More Kachin Insurgents Surrender in Bhamo 27 Jan *[Rangoon Radio]* 27

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore

- ASEAN Initiative on Regional Security Lauded *[THE STRAITS TIMES 1 Feb]* 27
- Potential Conflict Over Spratly Islands Viewed *[THE STRAITS TIMES 31 Jan]* 28
- Natural Gas Pipeline Begins Flow From Malaysia *[THE STRAITS TIMES 30 Jan]* 29

Cambodia

- Japanese Officials Meet Sihanouk, Promise Aid *[SPK]* 29
  - Meet Hor Namhong *[SPK]* 30
  - Japan Called 'Top Dollar Donor' *[SPK]* 30
- Japan's Political, Financial Influence Viewed *[AFP]* 30
  - Aid Plans Discussed *[SPK]* 31
- Lao Foreign Ministry Group Pays Working Visit *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 32
  - Sihanouk Hails 'Solid Relations' *[SPK]* 32
  - Joint Communique Issued *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 32
- Australian Delegation Discusses Recovery Aid 33
  - Four Year Program Noted *[Radio VOK]* 33
  - Sihanouk Meets Development Official *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 33
- VGNUFC Cites Sihanouk Speeches in Battambang 34
- Ung Phan Interviewed After Assassination Attempt *[AFP]* 34
  - New Anti-Terrorist Law Noted *[SPK]* 35

Ranariddh Views Security Problem in Phnom Penh *[Radio VGNUFC]* 35
UNTAC Head: 15,000 Peacekeeping Troops Needed *[SPK]* 35
French Official on Peace After Elections *[SPK]* 36
Columnist Analyzes Recent Events *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 31 Jan]* 36
500 SRV Troops Sent to Kompong Thom, Siem Reap *[Radio VGNUFC]* 38
Radio Claims SRV Forces Still in Phnom Penh *[Radio VGNUFC]* 38
Khmer Rouge Accused of Endangering Peace Process *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38
Refugees Informed of Assistance on Return *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 39
Red Cross Holds Meeting on Refugee Repatriation *[SPK]* 39
Police Extorting Money After Nightly Curfews *[AFP]* 40
Committee for Psychological Problems To Be Formed *[Radio VOK]* 40

Indonesia

Minister Pessimistic Over Oil Price Achievement *[ANTARA]* 41
Government Releases 111 Suspected Aceh Members *[THE INDONESIA TIMES 20 Jan]* 41

Laos

Phoun Sipaseut Returns From Cambodia Visit 3 Feb *[Vientiane Radio]* 42
DPRK's Kim Yong-Nam Holds 'Friendly' Talks *[Pyongyang Radio]* 42
Markers Erected on Border With Burma *[KPL]* 42
Article Celebrates LPA Founding Anniversary *[PASASON 20 Jan]* 42

Philippines

Aquino Asks U.S. To Reconsider Aid Reduction *[Manila Radio]* 43
    Spokesman Says Japan Possible PAP Donor *[Quezon City Radio]* 43
Senate Committee Approves Bases Conversion Bill *[BUSINESS WORLD 4 Feb]* 44
Air Services With Japan Expanded *[MANILA BULLETIN 3 Feb]* 44
Aquino Seeks Kabisig Movement Support for Ramos *[Manila Radio]* 45
Aquino: Imelda 'No Match' for Other Candidates *[Manila Radio]* 45
Abadia Says Rebel Candidates Cannot Campaign *[Quezon City Radio]* 45
Enrile Faction Teams Up With Mitra Party *[MALAYA 4 Feb]* 45
Salonga, Pimentel File Certificate of Candidacy *[Quezon City Radio]* 46
Rebel Leader, Aide Slain in Agusan del Sur *[Manila Radio]* 46
Four High Ranking NPA Members Arrested *[Quezon City Radio]* 46
Three Communist Rebels Killed in Davao del Sur *[Manila Radio]* 47
Coast Guard Seizes Ammunition Shipment in Mindanao *[MALAYA 4 Feb]* 47
Peace Talks Offered to Southern Tagalog Rebels *[Manila Radio]* 47
'Thousands' Rally Over Mindanao Power Rate Hikes *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 4 Feb]* 47
Drilon Says Marcos' Body Returned To Laoag Only *[Manila Radio]* 48

Thailand

New Constitution Officially Promulgated *[ROYAL GAZETTE 9 Dec]* 49

Vietnam

Do Muoi Addresses People's Control Conference *[Hanoi Radio]* 67
150,000 Workers Provided Jobs Last Year *[Hanoi TV]* 70
January Oil Production Figures Reported *[VNA]* 70
Light Industrial Sector Increases Gross Output *[Hanoi Radio]* 70
Agriculture Tax Exemption, Reduction Rule Issued *[Hanoi Radio]* 70
Hanoi TV Reports 1991, 1992 Tax Collection Work 71
Vietnam Airlines Expanding Foreign Market *[VNA]* 71
Draft Amendments to Constitution Examined *[Hanoi Radio]* 72
Needy People Receive State Funds on New Year *[Hanoi Radio]* 72
Article Examines Causes of Socialist Defeat *[Hanoi Radio]* 72

AUSTRALASIA

Fiji

Australian Foreign Minister Criticized on Agenda *[Melbourne International]* 75

Papua New Guinea

Government Denies Bougainville Village Shelled *[Melbourne International]* 75
  Emergency Center Set Up *[Melbourne International]* 75
  Agreement With Bougainville Leaders *[Wellington International]* 75

Vanuatu

France Asked To Join Regional Air Surveillance *[AFP]* 76

Japan

Miyazawa Apologizes for U.S. Work Ethic Remarks

OW0402003892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0032 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized Tuesday over his remarks about an alleged erosion of the American work ethic.

"It's not what I really meant," Miyazawa said in explaining his comment Monday, which drew a rebuke from the White House.

The prime minister made the apology at the outset of the day's deliberations in the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Speaking to the same committee on Monday, Miyazawa said in reply to a question, "I suspect that American workers have come to lack a work ethic," and charged that speculative money games on wall street over the past decade have tempted many away from making high-quality products.

The U.S. work ethic has eroded, the prime minister said, after years of "junk-bond" deals and leveraged buy-outs, with Americans "acquiring others' property without cash in their hands."

Says Criticism of U.S. Not Intended

OW0402041992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0409 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized Tuesday for his remarks about an alleged erosion of the American work ethic.

"I did not intend to criticize American workers," said Miyazawa after the United States responded that the comments were not helpful in promoting relations between the two countries.

The prime minister made the apology at the outset of Tuesday's deliberations in the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

In a Monday meeting of the same committee, Miyazawa said in reply to a question, "I suspect that American workers have come to lack a work ethic," adding that speculative money games on Wall Street over the past decade have tempted many away from making high-quality products.

Miyazawa said Tuesday that he made the earlier remarks in connection with what he called Japan's "bubble economy," a 1987 through 1991 economic boom during which Japanese workers were inclined to earn money easily rather than sweating at work.

In Washington, White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater responded to Miyazawa's remarks, saying they are not helpful in promoting relations between the two nations.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato expressed regret over the "misunderstanding" about Miyazawa's comment, saying news reports carried only limited portions of his remarks.

Kato said the Japanese Government will convey the "true" meaning on the remarks by Miyazawa to the U.S. Government through diplomatic channels.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told reporters that Miyazawa's remark is not a controversial matter. He said the prime minister also expressed regret over the dwindling work ethic among Japanese people.

But Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo implicitly criticized Prime Minister Miyazawa, saying Miyazawa should have based his testimony on a "scientific" analysis. Kondo said the hourly productivity of American workers is not low.

Envoy Sees Need for Improving U.S. Education

OW0402122892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1232 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Interview with Takakazu Kuriyama, new ambassador to the United States, by NHK newscaster Tadashi Sonoda; place and date not given—recorded; from "the NHK News 21" program]

[Text] [Sonoda] Among the issues in the Japan-U.S. relations, elimination of economic frictions is regarded as one of the top priority issues. What do you think of it?

[Kuriyama, laughing] In my opinion, it is not that easy to eliminate economic frictions. Basically speaking, in order to settle various problems that are termed as economic frictions, it will be necessary for both Japan and the United States to make their efforts on a long-term basis. As far as the United States is concerned, it will be necessary to deal with various problems that have been brought up for discussions in the United States, such as the issue of revitalizing American economy. For this purpose, it will be necessary to deal with such issues as education that Americans themselves have now come to realize needs improvement.

Japan, for its part, should make further efforts so that its economy can become better harmonized with global economy as a whole. Of course, it has already made quite an effort through the processes of opening up its market. However, I think there still remain a lot of things that Japan has to do in this connection.

[Sonoda] I think quite a few people have voiced their view that Japan should try to have more of its say in pursuing diplomacy with the United States from now on.

[Kuriyama] After all, we should give more thought to the orientation in which Japan should change as well as to what it should and must do when its current position and responsibilities in the international community are taken into consideration. When we feel that something has to be done, or it would be desirable to have something done, we must do them before the United States should point them out. [Video shows a sudden change of camera angle, indicating a possible break in recording]

[Sonoda] When the Japan-U.S. Strategic Impediments Initiative [SII] talks or auto-related issues are taken into account, I think the point at issue does not lie in figures but in different ways of viewing things between our two nations. What do you think of this, Mr. Ambassador?

[Kuriyama] Now that such close economic relations have been formed between our two nations, why is it that our mutual relations have become so shaky? It is because there are different rules between Japan and the United States. In extreme terms, we may say that the United States is a society of rules. Moreover, Americans tend to feel that their rules are the best in the world.

Quite a few cases indicating such a tendency have been noted in the past. Nevertheless, American rules cannot easily or necessarily be applied worldwide. Therefore, Americans should be asked to make further efforts in this connection. On the contrary, Japan for its part is a nation in which many people may prefer [words indistinct] rules. Thus, gears fail to mesh at some points. However, through such measures as the SII talks, our two nations have been able to understand each other better now.

With regard to multilateral aspects, rules that did not exist should be worked out through such talks as the Uruguay Round, which is still in session now. After all, such rules should be worked out among governments of the international community.

The American society tends to have a considerably wide amplitude [of vibration]. Some people prefer to use the expression of the movement of a pendulum. As I have just mentioned, I feel that the pendulum will return to the point of the-middle-of-the-road after some time because sound public opinion normally exists in the society. [sentence as heard] If Japan for its part should be only affected by the movement of this pendulum in American society, Japan is bound to have very emotional reactions. In this connection, I think it will be necessary for Japan to deal with things by assuming a dispassionate attitude.

Surplus 'Unlikely To Reignite' Trade Friction

OW0402013992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0124 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Tuesday that Japan's resurging current-account surplus is unlikely to reignite harsh trade friction with the U.S.

Hata told a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting that the current increase in Japan's trade surplus is different in nature from the expansion in the mid-1980's, when the growth generated criticism among Japan's trade partners.

He said the present increase "is not caused by intentional export drives by Japanese companies as once occurred."

The Finance Minister pointed to the yen's appreciation, which boosted the dollar-denominated value of Japanese exports, as one of the reasons for the upswing in surplus.

"The volume of exports is not increasing sharply," he said.

But he admitted there is a danger of renewed trade disputes if the external surplus rises to a level much higher than 2 percent of the nation's gross national product.

Recently, a top-ranking Finance Ministry official said the current surplus level, which is running at around 2 percent of the GNP, is substantially lower than the 4.4 percent peak recorded in 1986, and should be acceptable to Japan's major trade partners.

Hata also said he does not think the current growth of surplus will lead to another round of "Japan bashing," arguing that Americans are people who can analyze with a cool head the real picture behind the figures.

"In the U.S., when the pendulum of opinions reaches one end, it usually begins to swing to the other end," he said.

Bilateral GATT Market Access Talks Hit Snag

OW0402092892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Bilateral negotiations on market access under the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) are deadlocked because of differences over farm trade, government sources said Tuesday.

The sources said Japan has so far held talks with the United States, Australia, South Korea, and Indonesia.

In the Japan-U.S. session, the sources said, both sides remained apart on a U.S. demand both sides remove tariffs on imported nonferrous metals and forestry products, in addition to chemical and medical goods already agreed.

The United States also demanded Japan reduce tariffs on processed farm products, they said.

The sources said little progress is expected in the negotiations unless major trading nations make a decision on the thorny farm trade issue.

The second round of the plenary negotiations on market access negotiations is scheduled to start February 17.

The sources said the deadlock in the bilateral sessions makes it hard to conclude the talks by the end of February as hoped by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel.

IBM Supplying Hard Disk Drives to Sharp

OW0102073892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0724 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—International Business Machines (IBM) of the United States has begun to supply its 2.5-inch hard disk drives (HDDs) to Sharp Corp. of Japan under the original equipment manufacturing (OEM) formula, industry sources said Saturday. The giant U.S. electronic firm previously sold its computer components to other companies.

The sources said IBM's policy change followed a sweeping structural reorganization implemented by the company last October. IBM is believed to have also started supplying its HDDs to other Japanese personal computer makers, the sources said.

The firm's move poses a serious threat to Japanese HDD manufacturers, since the company is known as the world's largest manufacturer of the device, they said.

The HDD, along with central processing units and liquid crystal displays, is a main component of personal computers. Its market in Japan is estimated at 600 billion yen a year.

Phillips Petroleum Tokyo Joint Venture To End

OW0302001892 Tokyo KYODO in English 2358 GMT 02 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Japan's top synthetic fiber manufacturer, Toray Industries Inc., will dissolve its Japanese joint venture with U.S.-based Phillips Petroleum Co., buying the U.S. partner's half of the 6 billion yen capital, a major industrial daily reported Monday.

The move is in line with Phillips' decision to close its polyphenylene sulfide (PPS) business, the NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN said.

With the dissolution of the Tokyo-based joint venture, Toray will take over all of Phillips' Japanese rights to produce and sell PPS products, an engineering plastic capable of resisting temperatures of more than 200 degrees centigrade, the paper said.

Toray intends to greatly expand its PPS business through original management methods, it said.

The 50-50 venture has a PPS plant with a 7,000 ton annual production capacity, the daily said. The PPS market has grown to 10,000 tons a year, but falling prices due to excessive competition have sent all 13 domestic manufacturers into the red, it said.

Comments on Kadena Base Reorganization Reported

Foreign Ministry Views Issue

OW0302130492 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 1 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] Tokyo—The U.S. Air Force [USAF] Command in Japan announced on 31 January the reorganization of Kadena Air Base [KAB]. According to the announcement, 581 members of the 353d Special Operations Wing [SOW] as well as 169 members of the 603d Military Airlift Command [MAC], all of whom have been temporarily transferred here from the Philippines, now will be permanently deployed in Okinawa. Meanwhile, part of a fighter unit under the 18th Wing stationed at KAB will be withdrawn. In connection with this withdrawal, 491 members, as well as 228 concerned personnel, will be withdrawn. These measures will be taken as part of the "East Asian Strategic Program" [EASP], which was announced by the U.S. Department of Defense in 1990. As a result of these deployments and withdrawals, the number of personnel will be increased by 20 and KAB will be reinforced through this reorganization. However, according to the Foreign Ministry, another large-scale program for further reduction centered on Okinawa will be announced on 1 April.

According to the U.S. Air Force news release issued on the same day, the permanent deployment of the 353d SOW and the 603d MAC "will last until a permanent replacement base for the units can be found." However, the release did not mention any prospects for locating such a replacement base.

A helicopter squadron attached to the 353d SOW will be withdrawn from Japan by the end of this year. Also, it has been reported that 18 F-15 reserve aircraft assigned to the 18th Wing will be withdrawn this autumn. It is also stated that a reduction of over 2,000 personnel has been completed on Okinawa in accordance with the EASP reduction plan.

On the recent decision, the National Security Affairs Division of the Foreign Ministry has the following comments: "With regard to 581 members of the 353d SOW, it has been decided that their deployment at KAB will be in the best interest of peace and security in Japan and the Far East. The U.S. Armed Forces are also scheduled to further carry out their reduction plan in the future, and we understand that an intermediate reduction plan for the second stage will be announced on 1 April this year. As far as the Foreign Ministry is concerned, we have repeatedly stated on every available opportunity that since bases are concentrated on Okinawa, feelings of the local people must be taken into consideration. I feel that our efforts must have achieved some effects."

Editorial Expresses Opposition

OW0402013392 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 2 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Reorganization of U.S. Force Aimed at Base Fortification"]

[Text] As people of the prefecture feared, the "temporary transfer" of the U.S. Air Force's 353d Special Operations Wing [SOW], accompanied by closure of Clark Air Base [CAB] in the Philippines, has become a "permanent deployment." We cannot help but be strongly opposed to reorganization of the U.S. military on Okinawa aimed at strengthening base functions.

Regarding the 353d SOW, which was "temporarily transferred" to Kadena Air Base [KAB] and Futenma Air Station from CAB in the Philippines in June last year, the KAB Public Relations Department has disclosed the latest U.S. Air Force plans, saying that the unit will "remain continuously on Okinawa until a replacement base can be found." Although they said that the unit would stay here "until a replacement base can be found," that will be the end of it, judging from previous cases, if they say "no replacement base can be found." The recent announcement can be understood as a de facto decision for "permanent deployment."

Opposition of local residents, who suffer from the noise, and the prefectural government, was not accepted. This is very regrettable.

The [Japanese] Foreign Ministry denied that this is a permanent deployment saying that it is a "temporary stationing." The ministry also stated its view that "it is impossible to offer a new facility or region on Okinawa" to the U.S. side. We would like to ask what on earth this means, and how long is "temporary"?

The public relations department also disclosed reorganization plans including the reduction of a total of 15 F-15 fighters and 490 members of the U.S. Air Force on Okinawa. It is said that in addition to the SOW, 160 members of the Military Airlift Command, who are being dispatched from CAB, will continue to stay on duty at KAB and that C-12 operations support aircraft will be redeployed to boost their transportation capability.

Fortification of the special air wing and a reduction of the tactical combat function, explained in the reorganization plan, can be understood as measures designed to change the function of KAB from a frontline and combat support base of the past to a transit and supply base.

The SOW is a unit designed, as its name suggest, to perform aerial special operations; including advance reconnaissance, information gathering, transport of Green Berets, and antiterrorist measures.

Permanent deployment of the Air Force's special unit to the KAB indicates the fact that the U.S. Forces [USF] is shifting relative importance to strategies called "measures to deal with low-intensity conflict," such as regional conflicts in the Third World. The USF meanwhile, has referred to this in its defense report.

The U.S. Department of Defense has testified to Congress that the role of the U.S. Forces in Japan [USFJ] "is to perform emergency operations—while taking into account the lessons learned from the Gulf war—when a conflict breaks out in East Asia, the Pacific, and Indian ocean." However, it is the USFJ, the USF on Okinawa in particular, which will become the core of this emergency operation.

The recent deployment is an attempt to be prepared for unfolding strategies in the Asia-Pacific region with Okinawa as a strongpoint.

For Okinawa, the reorganization plans are nothing but measures to fortify base functions.

Apart from this, the USFJ Headquarters explained the situation regarding USF withdrawal, based on the East Asian strategic concept of the United States, and disclosed the fact that the USF on Okinawa already "withdrew more than 2,000 members."

Nevertheless, why is the amount of live-shell firing not decreasing but increasing instead?

Miyazawa Returns Home From UN Summit 2 Feb

OW0202055392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0548 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa returned home Sunday from New York after attending the first summit of leaders of U.N. Security Council member nations.

Miyazawa delivered a speech at the opening of the meeting and held one-on-one talks with U.S. President George Bush, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and other world leaders.

Companies To Export Container Ships to PRC

OW0402005592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0044 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 4 KYODO—Mitsui and Co. and Hitachi Zosen Corp. agreed Monday to export three large container ships to a Chinese Government-controlled shipping company for 44 billion yen, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Tuesday in a report from Beijing.

This will be the first time in 17 years that Japan has exported ships to China, the economic daily said.

Hitachi Zosen will construct the container ships, which will have a displacement of about 50,000 tons and a loading capacity of 3,800 containers, and will deliver them to the Chinese marine transporter by 1994, it said.

China has promoted the shipbuilding business as its key industry, and has almost never imported cargo ships, the paper said.

The agreed purchase of the Japanese ships is partly due to China's falling marine transport capability, as well as a rapid trade recovery in China last year, which increased its foreign reserves to more than 40 billion dollars, it said.

Michio Watanabe Outlines Food Aid for CIS

OW0402021892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0210 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Japan will start transporting emergency food and medical supplies to the Russian Far East on Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) planes and ships and on chartered civilian planes, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Tuesday.

The emergency aid is part of a 6.5 billion yen grant pledged by Japan on January 17 to help the former Soviet republics tide over economic difficulties.

Watanabe said at a regular cabinet meeting that the MSA planes will fly between Chitose in Hokkaido and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk in Sakhalin, and the ships will leave Niigata on Saturday or Sunday for Vladivostok.

Government-chartered civilian planes will also fly from Narita to Khabarovsk with the supplies, he said.

After the cabinet meeting, Defense Agency Director General Sohei Miyashita told reporters that Self-Defense Forces planes will not be used to transport emergency aid to the Russian Far East region this time.

Miyashita said, however, that it is "a good idea" to use military planes to carry emergency supplies to the former Soviet republics.

Hokkaido To Send Mission to Sakhalin for Talks

OW0302122592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Sapporo, Feb. 3 KYODO—The Hokkaido prefectural government said Monday that Japan's northernmost prefecture will send personnel to Sakhalin in the Russian Federation later this month for talks on having local resident exchanges without visas.

In a message telexed to Sakhalin officials, Hokkaido disclosed a plan to send its mission to Sakhalin for eight days from February 17, prefectural officials said.

The prefecture's task force on the Russian-held northern islands off Hokkaido said the officials will hold talks with their counterparts in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Sakahlin, on February 20 and 21.

They will discuss such issues as resident exchanges without visas between Hokkaido and the four islands of Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai Islets, and a planned symposium on the long-standing territorial row between Japan and Russia, the officials said.

The four islands were occupied by former Soviet troops during the closing days of World War II.

Initially, Hokkaido hoped to hold the talks in January, but Sakhalin had been seeking a postponement until February, the Hokkaido officials said.

Tokyo 'Not Optimistic' on Islands Solution

OW0402091192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 (KYODO)—Japan is not optimistic that a longstanding territorial dispute with the former Soviet Union can be resolved at the September visit to Tokyo by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Tuesday.

Japan and Russia will conduct diplomatic exchanges and important discussions regarding a bilateral peace treaty prior to Yeltsin's planned trip, Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference.

"But there is a long history to the negotiations, so we should not take an optimistic view. I have no confidence that we can reach a basic agreement on a peace treaty," Kato said.

Kato denied a report in the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN the same day that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa had told the cabinet of his desire for a basic agreement on a peace treaty during the Russian president's visit.

The paper quoted Miyazawa as saying in its evening edition that Japan and Russia will conduct negotiations with Yeltsin's visit in mind.

The two countries are scheduled to hold vice minister-level talks in Moscow in February, while Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is scheduled to come to Japan in March.

Japan is demanding the return of four islands off Hokkaido as a condition for concluding a peace treaty. The former Soviet Red Army took over the islands after Japan surrendered in World War II.

Plans To Purchase Russian Plutonium Denied

OW0402033692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Japan has no plans at present to purchase plutonium from Russia derived from the dismantling of its strategic nuclear weapons, a cabinet minister said Tuesday.

Kanzo Tanigawa, director general of the Science and Technology Agency, told a news conference after a cabinet meeting that the problem of accepting plutonium from Russia must be discussed internationally.

He was referring to reports in the Japanese press that Russia is considering selling plutonium from dismantled nuclear weapons and putting Japan on a list of potential customers.

Noting that Tokyo has not received any request for cooperation from Moscow on the matter, Tanigawa said the problem of moving nuclear materials or managing nuclear researchers involves the issue of preventing nuclear proliferation, so that it must be discussed internationally.

A report in the ASAHI SHIMBUN newspaper Monday quoted a source with Russian President Boris Yeltsin as saying in Washington on Saturday that Japan is on the list of potential customers because nuclear fuel mixed with plutonium is being burned experimentally in the power reactors of Kansai Electric Power Co. and the Japan Atomic Power Co., and that a program to develop a plutonium-dependent fast breeder reactor is under way in Japan.

Mission Leaves for Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan 4 Feb

OW0402044192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0431 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—A Japanese Government mission left Tokyo on Tuesday for a visit to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to provide technical assistance for economic affairs, the Foreign Ministry said.

The group of four economists will be the first official delegation to the two nations since Japan established diplomatic relations with them January 26.

The scholars will visit the two former Soviet republics until February 11, and while there they will discuss economic situations or give advice on future economic management, ministry officials said.

The mission is also scheduled to hold talks with Kyrghyz President Askar Akayev before returning to Japan on February 15, the officials said.

Computer Software Firm Hires Russian Engineers

OW0302125792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1236 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Nagasaki, Feb. 3 KYODO—Tokyo-based electronic firm TSD has hired three Russian engineers to help develop computer software, company President Tsutomu Matsuzaki reported Monday.

The trio, all graduates of Moscow University, includes Gayrat Ikramov, 24, one-time runner-up in the mathematic olympics in Moscow, Matsuzaki said.

He said the standard of computer game software development in the former Soviet Union was high, but employment of Russian engineers by Western companies had been impossible because they were under government control.

The collapse of the communist empire late last year triggered the exodus of Soviet engineers to the outside world, he said.

Matsuzaki said the three Russian employees will be offered the same treatment as Japanese college graduates and assigned to the company's software development facilities in Nagasaki Prefecture.

Joint Telecom Venture With Russia Launched

OW0402105292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 (KYODO)—A Japanese business group said Tuesday it has launched a joint telecommunications and information service venture in Khabarovsk with Russia's state-run Far East Radio Television Corp.

The Japanese partner, Soviet Union Investment Promotion Co. (SUIP) based in Niigata, said the new firm, Inter-Media Service, will provide telephone and facsimile service between Japan and the Russian Federation via a circuit leased from the International Marine Satellite Organization.

The new firm will also assist in arranging for advertisement, publicity, and information gathering in Russia.

Inter-Media Service, capitalized at 510,000 U.S. dollars, will be 67 percent owned by Far East Radio Television and 33 percent by the Japanese group.

SUIP was established last March by the Niigata prefectural government and business firms to survey investment opportunities and construction of hotels in the collapsed Soviet Union.

Nissan To Halt Car Production in Australia

OW0302084692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0813 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Japan's No. 2 automaker Nissan Motor Co. said Monday it will stop producing cars in Australia next year because of the government's decision to lower tariffs on imported vehicles step by step.

The Tokyo-based company said all Nissan cars to be sold in Australia will be shipped from Japan.

The company said the Australian Government enforced the gradual tariff cuts on imported vehicles last year.

Nissan has decided to halt local assembly of vehicles in order to take advantage of the tariff reduction, the company said.

It said it plans to write off an estimated loss of 40 billion yen to be caused by the policy switch by selling its property held in Australia.

Tokyo 'Disappointed' at Cambodia Talks Exclusion

OW0402094992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0937 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 (KYODO)—Japan is "disappointed" at being excluded from recent talks on United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

It is not right for Japan to be expected to put up massive financial support for peacekeeping operations in Cambodia and not be allowed to take part in related consultations, said spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa.

"This kind of situation cannot pass if Japan is going to continue its strong support," Hanabusa told foreign correspondents.

On January 26, Yukio Imagawa, Japan's permanent representative to the Supreme National Council, Cambodia's reconciliation body, was not allowed to take part in talks in Phnom Penh, Hanabusa said.

The talks involved the four Cambodian factions in the council, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, and Indonesia, which co-chaired two international peace conferences on Cambodia along with France.

Japan's exclusion from the talks lay behind Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's suggestion last week that countries expected to shoulder considerable costs for peacekeeping operations be involved "from the earliest stage," Hanabusa said.

Addressing a U.N. Security Council summit last week, Miyazawa also proposed creation of an ad hoc "consultative mechanism" on peacekeeping operations, particularly large-scale ones.

Miyazawa proposed that members include "countries which are major contributors of funds, among other things, as well as the countries concerned in the region."

Hanabusa said Japan was "disappointed" at Imagawa's exclusion from the talks, especially considering Japan's intent to put up some 20 percent of an estimated 1 billion dollar cost of the peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

He also noted that a Japanese national, Yasushi Akashi, was selected last month as head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

"If Japan is to give substantially to UNTAC, it should participate in preparatory consultations for the setup of UNTAC," said a ministry official.

Another official said it will be hard for the government to justify the expenditures to taxpayers if Japan is not allowed to be involved from the planning stage.

Takeshita Presses SRV To Improve U.S. Ties

OW0102035292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0341 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 31 KYODO—Former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita called on Vietnam on Friday to improve its relations with the United States, his aides said.

Takeshita made the call in a meeting with Vietnamese Deputy Premier Phan Van Khai, the aides said.

The Vietnamese official urged an early resumption of Japanese economic aid, saying talks with a study team dispatched from Tokyo in mid-January have been fruitful, according to the aides traveling with Takeshita.

Takeshita responded with a promise to convey the request to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Japan halted its official development assistance to Vietnam, except humanitarian aid, after Hanoi invaded neighboring Cambodia in December 1978.

Takeshita also revealed that Japan plans to hammer out concrete plans to help the global environment.

Meeting Maurice Strong, secretary general of the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, Takeshita said there is a fast-spreading notion in Japan that the environment is the most suitable field for Japan to make international contributions, the Japanese officials said.

Citing the importance of political leadership in the environmental field, Strong reportedly expressed his expectations that Takeshita will play a role in an enlarged Japanese contribution to saving the environment.

Takeshita has been invited as special adviser to the so-called "Earth Summit," which Strong's agency is sponsoring in Brazil this June.

Firm Plans Return to SRV Construction Market

OW0302114792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1106 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Hazama Corp., a leading civil engineering firm, is preparing to return to the construction market in Vietnam after an interval of 17 years, company officials said Monday.

The Tokyo-based company is the only Japanese construction firm with records of involvement in dam and electric power projects in former South Vietnam.

The officials said the company determined to make a return to the Vietnamese market after Japan decided to resume aid to Vietnam, suspended since Hanoi's invasion of Cambodia in 1979.

They said the company hopes to win a contract for reconstruction of Vietnam's largest general hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon.

The hospital, with about 1,000 beds, was completed by the company in 1974 at a cost of 4.6 billion yen.

The Vietnamese Government has asked Japan for financial aid for reconstruction of the hospital, the officials said.

The officials said the company has applied to the Vietnamese Government for permission to open a representative office in the country.

Tokyo Provides Grant-in-Aid to Philippines

OW0402043092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0349 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Japan will provide a 1.45 billion yen grant-in-aid to the Philippines to help reconstruct areas battered by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The aid will be used to rebuild bridges and roads destroyed by the eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo, some 90 kilometers northwest of Manila, in June last year. The money will be also used to purchase construction machines and trucks, the ministry said.

Notes on the aid agreement were signed Tuesday in Manila by Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and Japanese Ambassador Toshio Goto.

Tokyo Decides To Sign Latin American Fund Pact

OW0402024092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0231 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—The Japanese Government decided Tuesday to sign a treaty to establish a multilateral investment fund for political and economic development in Latin America, officials said.

The decision came at a cabinet meeting. The signing of the treaty will take place in Washington on Thursday, the officials said.

The multilateral investment fund was proposed by U.S. President George Bush in 1990 to help bring political and economic stability to Latin America.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) decided to establish the fund during its general assembly in Nagoya last April.

Under the fund scheme, the United States, Japan, and European countries are to provide a total of 1.3 billion dollars.

Of this total, Japan will disburse 500 million dollars for the expansion of and technical assistance for investment in Latin America, for training potential talent for economic development, and promoting development of medium- and small-sized enterprises, the officials said.

Tunisian Planning Minister Seeks Investment

OW0402055592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0522 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Tunisian Minister of Planning and Regional Development Mustapha Kamel Nabli called on Japan on Tuesday to invest more in his country of eight million people.

Nabli also urged Japan to be more outspoken in the Middle East peace process.

"Japan supports a solution to the Palestinian problem with a land-for-peace deal, which is exactly our position," Nabli told reporters.

"If (Japan's views) are more clearly known, it can be useful," he said, commenting on Arab-Israeli peace negotiations launched in Madrid last October.

Japan was not represented at the Madrid conference.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, however, pledged at the latest multilateral peace conference convened last month in Moscow that Japan would play a major role in environmental protection efforts in the Middle East.

Nabli, here to attend a conference on industrial cooperation in the Middle East, said that recent structural reforms aimed at creating a more open economy, along with Tunisia's proximity to the unifying European market, have made for a more attractive investment climate.

He said he was concerned, however, that increases in financial flows to Eastern Europe following the collapse of the East bloc, and the ensuing possibility of higher interest rates, could hamper Tunisia's bid for greater investments.

Since the mid-1980s Isuzu Motors, Sony Corp., and two other companies have launched projects in Tunisia.

Nabli is to meet with finance, trade, and development aid officials before winding up his weeklong visit on Saturday.

Government To 'Review' 1976 Basic Defense Plan

OW0402075492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0650 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, feb. 4 KYODO—Following dramatic changes in the international situation, Japan will review its 1976 basic defense plan which calls for building up the capability to repulse limited and small-scale foreign aggression, Defense Agency [DA] Chief Sohei Miyashita said Tuesday.

Miyashita, a state minister, was replying to questions from Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa at a session of the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

The defense plan, called the National Defense Program Outline, was adopted by the cabinet of the late Prime Minister Takeo Miki in 1976.

Successive governments have worked out five-year defense programs and promoted defense buildup efforts under the plan. It sets Japan's minimum defense capability at 60 antisubmarine surface ships and 430 aircraft.

Miyashita said the Defense Agency will review the number of warplanes, tanks, and other war machines, and also the major framework of the basic defense scheme.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the same session that Japan will spend a long time reviewing the 1976 defense plan and consult with friendly countries.

Miyazawa said, however, Japan will not change—without considering potential enemies—the basic ideas of the defense plan calling for it to have minimum defense capability.

The prime minister said the basic ideas of the plan have not been affected by the political and military situations following the end of the cold war.

Referring to the possibility of a cut in military spending, Miyashita said the government will implement a reduction of 100 billion yen in the 22.75 trillion yen defense buildup program for fiscal 1991-1995.

The cabinet of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu promised last year to cut 100 billion yen from the defense budget as part of fund-raising efforts to finance the 9 billion dollars worth of additional financial support for U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf war.

Miyashita said the government will cut the defense budget by 1 billion yen in fiscal 1991 ending March 31, 24 billion yen in fiscal 1992, 59.2 billion yen in fiscal 1993, and 16 billion yen in fiscal 1994.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe also spoke to the committee and called on Diet members to pass a proposed U.N. Peacekeeping Operations Bill.

The bill, which was carried over from the previous session of the Diet, would allow Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping forces.

Watanabe made the call in reply to Ichikawa, who advised the government to drop the idea of allowing SDF personnel to take part in U.N. missions.

Prior to the deliberations of the lower house Budget Committee, Miyazawa apologized for his remarks about an alleged erosion of the American work ethic.

He made the apology one day after he told the same committee that speculative money games on Wall Street over the past decade played a part in reducing the competitiveness of U.S. products.

"Because so many American university graduates were recruited into Wall Street, the number of engineers in charge of developing goods has declined," Miyazawa said in response to a question by former Trade Minister Kabun Muto.

Illegal Foreign Residents Said To Increase 50%

OW0402081392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0644 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—The number of foreigners illegally residing in Japan increased 50 percent in the 10-month period between July 1990 and May 1991, the Immigration Bureau said Tuesday.

The bureau obtained the figure by computing entries and departures by foreigners at the country's international airports, officials said.

The number of males illegally residing in Japan during the period was estimated at 106,518 and the number of females at 53,310.

An estimated 90 percent of the total 159,828 were working illegally in Japan, the officials said.

They said the largest number, 27,228, were from the Philippines, followed by 25,848 from South Korea, 19,093 from Thailand, and 17,535 from China.

More than 80 percent, or 128,914, were on short-term visas, followed by others on study and entertainment visas, the officials said.

Analysis of the figures shows a 14.3-fold increase in the number of Iranians staying illegally in the country, they said. Iranians are not required to obtain visas for entry to Japan.

According to the bureau, the number of South Koreans increased 1.9-fold in the same period following the South Korean Government's lifting of restrictions on travel from that country.

The number of Chinese increased 1.7 times. More than 60 percent of Chinese entered Japan on study visas, the officials said.

The bureau is currently consulting with the National Police Agency and the Labor Ministry on more comprehensive ways of detecting foreigners overstaying their visas, the officials said.

Prosecutors Indict Fumio Abe on Bribery Charges

OW0102055592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0533 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Prosecutors on Saturday indicted former State Minister Fumio Abe who was a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, on suspicion of accepting bribes.

Abe was arrested last month for allegedly taking 80 million yen in bribes between August 1989 and January 1990 from Kyowa Co., a now bankrupt maker of steel frames.

Abe, 69, was state minister in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, serving as director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies from August 1989 to February 1990.

Abe, a veteran member of the House of Representatives, was secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party's second-largest faction led by Miyazawa from last April to December.

Upon his arrest on January 13, he left both the governing party and the Miyazawa faction.

Further on Indictment

OW0102073292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0711 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Prosecutors on Saturday indicted Fumio Abe, former state minister and director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, on the charge of accepting an 80 million yen bribe from a now defunct maker of steel frames. The Tokyo District Public Prosecutor's Office said it has filed a document of indictment against Abe with the Tokyo District Court.

The prosecutors also indicted the man who they said sent the bribe to Abe in exchange for providing influence for the now-bankrupt Kyowa Co. He was Goro Moriguchi, 48, a former vice president with the company. Kyowa went bankrupt last November with debts of some 200 billion yen. Abe has denied taking bribes from Kyowa, according to investigative sources.

Abe, who was a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, was arrested on January 13 for allegedly taking bribes from Moriguchi on six occasions between August 1989 and January 1990. Abe, 69, was a state minister in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu from August 1989 to February 1990.

A veteran member of the House of Representatives, Abe was secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party's second-largest faction led by Miyazawa from last April to December. Upon his arrest on January 13, he left both the governing party and the Miyazawa faction.

During his term in office as director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, Abe was suspected of having agreed to supply Moriguchi with information about construction of an expressway in Hokkaido, the sources said. He was also suspected of having promised to assist Kyowa to participate in the construction of a multipurpose, all-weather stadium, the white dome, and to obtain low-interest loans from the governmental Hokkaido-Tohoku Development Corp., they said. Moriguchi reportedly gave Abe up to 530 million yen, including the 80 million yen bribe.

Abe has been elected seven times to the House of Representatives from Hokkaido's No. 3 constituency since 1969.

The arrest of an incumbent Diet member was the first since the 1976 Lockheed payoff scandal. In the 1988-1989 Recruit stock-for-favors scandal, some of politicians tainted were indicted without being taken into custody.

Former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was arrested in 1976 and later convicted of taking 500 million yen in bribes from Lockheed Corp. of the United States. Two other senior LDP legislators were also apprehended in the Lockheed scandal.

Moriguchi is being tried on a separate charge of defrauding two trading houses of 3.65 billion yen in 1990 by fabricating contract documents for fictitious steel frame orders in collusion with a senior official of Marubeni Corp., a major trading company. Moriguchi allegedly sought Abe's help in May 1989 in an effort to conceal the fraud.

Lawyers Ask for Bail

OW0302043592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0422 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—A group of lawyers for Fumio Abe asked the Tokyo District Court on Monday to allow bail to be posted in connection with allegations that the former state minister had taken an 80 million yen bribe from Kyowa Co., a defunct steel-frame maker.

Submitting an application to bail out the former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa development agencies, Abe's lawyers told the court there is no possibility that their client would destroy evidence relating to the bribery allegations.

The district court will make a decision about Abe's bail after consultations with prosecutors, officials said.

On Saturday, the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office indicted Abe on charges of taking bribes from Goro Moriguchi, former vice president of Kyowa. The bribes allegedly took place on six occasions between August 1989 and January 1990.

Abe is a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, and is a former secretary general of Miyazawa's faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Abe held the post in the second-largest LDP faction from April to December of last year.

Bail Order Issued

OW0402075892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0657 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—The Tokyo District Court issued an order to release former State Minister Fumio Abe on a 50 million yen bail, court officials said Tuesday.

Abe is expected to be set free later in the day, the officials said.

Abe, 69, who was one of close allies of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, was indicted Saturday on charges of accepting an 80 million yen bribe from Kyowa Co., a now defunct steel frame maker.

Abe was state minister in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, serving as director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawan Development Agencies from August 1989 to February 1990.

A veteran member of the House of Representatives, Abe was secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party's second-largest faction led by Miyazawa from last April to December.

Upon his arrest January 13, he left both the governing party and the Miyazawa faction.

Miyazawa: Abe Has Choice in Resignation Issue

OW0402032692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0314 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa insisted Tuesday that Fumio Abe, under indictment on bribery charges, has a final say in deciding whether or not he will quit the Japanese parliament.

"It is basically up to him to make the decision," Miyazawa said in response to a question from an opposition legislator in the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Calling Abe "a longtime friend" of his, Miyazawa said he will give Abe advice "as a friend" if asked. Abe previously served as director general of the Miyazawa faction within the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

Abe, a former director general of the Hokkaido Development Agency, was indicted last week on charges of accepting bribes from steel frame manufacturer Kyowa Corp.

Miyazawa's comment in the parliamentary proceedings came amid reports that Jun Shiozaki, another close ally of the premier, has admitted receiving 20 million yen from Kyowa, allegedly in exchange for his role in hushing up a bogus deal made by the company.

Shiozaki Said To Acknowledge Bribe From Kyowa

OW0402005292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0042 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Jun Shiozaki, a close ally of Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, has acknowledged the receipt of 20 million yen from Kyowa Corp. in a widening bribery scandal, sources said Tuesday.

The sources said that Shiozaki, former director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, received the money in return for his alleged role in hushing up a bogus deal by Kyowa in 1989.

Shiozaki, a former Finance Ministry bureaucrat, presented a paper to the Tokyo district prosecutor's office, the sources said.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN, which originally broke the story, said Fumio Abe, who has been indicted in the Kyowa bribery scandal, received 30 million yen in broker's fee in the 1989 episode.

Kyowa, a steel-frame maker, has gone bankrupt since then.

ASAHI said that Shiozaki talked with Marubeni Corp. Chairman Kazuo Haruna on behalf of Kyowa.

Kyowa allegedly used the order documents of Marubeni, a major trading company, to make up fictitious steel frame transactions.

Shiozaki had previously admitted meeting with the Marubeni chairman but denied receiving the money from Kyowa, ASAHI said.

Justice Minister on Monitoring of Investigations

OW0302064992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0629 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Justice Minister Takashi Tawara refused Monday to rule out that the government could halt investigations into two unfolding bribery scandals.

Tawara spurned a request in the Diet from opposition Social Democratic Party member Sadao Yamahana that the government pledge not to intervene with the prosecutor general's investigations of the Kyowa and Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin bribery scandals.

"I think it is sufficient for me only to say I will monitor the developments of investigations calmly," Tawara said during House of Representatives budget committee deliberations.

"Your answer is quite inadequate," Yamahana shot back, staring at the justice minister and demanding a clear-cut vow not to stymie investigations.

"The justice minister must offer a firm pledge not to invoke his legal authority to order a halt to the prosecutors' investigations into the Kyowa and Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandals," said Yamahana, a member of the biggest opposition party.

He said he feared Tawara would intervene "as prosecutors are extending the scope of their probes from the Kyowa scam into the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandals."

Some political pundits maintain that allegations of massive bribe taking by dozens of ruling and opposition party politicians from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin transportation firm could surpass in scope current influence-buying charges against defunct steel-frame maker Kyowa Co., or even the Recruit scandal that brought down the government of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

The budget committee chairman interrupted the debate, telling Yamahana his request for a government promise not to intervene in the scandals would be dealt with by a meeting of senior executives of the ruling and opposition parties in charge of Diet proceedings.

Yamahana also called on the government to subpoena former prime minister Zenko Suzuki, former Management and Coordination Agency director general Jun Shiozaki, and other legislators allegedly implicated in the Kyowa scam to testify as witnesses.

Press reports have claimed Suzuki received 160 million yen from Kyowa, which now faces fraud charges, in exchange for his chairmanship of an exclusive private resort club.

Shiozaki is alleged to have received 20 million yen from Kyowa to use his influence in persuading major trading house Marubeni Corp. not to press Kyowa to repay debts from allegedly bogus steel frame orders to Marubeni.

Yamahana also demanded that the Diet adopt a resolution recommending the resignation from the Diet of former cabinet Minister Fumio Abe, who was indicted Saturday on charges of taking some 80 million yen in bribes from Kyowa.

The money was allegedly offered in exchange for Abe's influence over lucrative public works projects under his jurisdiction as director general of the Hokkaido Development Agency.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the committee, "The truth of the scandal will be revealed through a trial and it is up to Abe's judgment whether he would resign or not in view of the principle of democracy."

Yamahana also pressed the government to clarify allegations that Shiozaki received an additional 490 million yen from Kyowa in exchange for persuading shipbuilder Sasebo Heavy Industries Ltd. to disclaim much of its claims on Kyowa.

Press reports said Sasebo's 1.1 billion yen in claims on Kyowa were reduced to 400 million yen after Shiozaki visited the headquarters of the shipbuilder on Kyowa's behalf.

Debate Over Witnesses May Delay Diet Panel

OW0402130392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 (KYODO)—The House of Representative Budget Committee may be idled starting Wednesday by wrangling over whether to summon former high-level officials to testify about a bribery scandal, party officials said Tuesday.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) rejected opposition demands Tuesday that former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki, former Management and Coordination Agency Chief Jun Shiozaki, and others be called to testify on reports of their involvement in reputed bribery by defunct steel-frame maker Kyowa Co.

The party refused the demands by the Social Democratic Party, Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party, the Japanese Communist Party, and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) because the case is now before the Tokyo District Court, LDP officials said.

Former Cabinet Minister Fumio Abe was indicted Saturday on charges of taking 80 million yen in bribes from Kyowa.

Abe, a former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, was also until recently secretary general of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's faction in the LDP—the party's second largest.

The LDP officials said summoning Suzuki, Shiozaki, and others to clear them of alleged involvement in the scandal would block the ongoing investigation.

In the committee session, Miyazawa apologized for having expressed the hope earlier Tuesday that Abe would be found innocent of the charges against him.

USDP Member Yanosuke Narazaki accused Miyazawa of making a "thoughtless" remark, unbecoming of a prime minister who is, he said, the most important public figure.

Miyazawa made the initial remark in reply to morning questioning by Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa.

On defense issues, Defense Agency Chief Sohei Miyashita said Japan will review its 1976 Basic Defense Plan, which calls for building up the capability to repulse limited, small-scale aggression.

The Defense Buildup Plan, called the National Defense Program Outline, was adopted by the cabinet of the late Prime Minister Takeo Miki in 1976.

Successive governments have worked out five-year defense programs and promoted defense buildup efforts under the plan. It sets Japan's minimum defense capability at 60 antisubmarine surface ships and 430 aircraft.

Replying to questions from Ichikawa, Miyashita said his agency will review the number of warplanes, tanks, and other war machines, as well as the major framework of the basic defense scheme.

Miyazawa told the same session Japan will spend a long time reviewing the 1976 defense plan and consulting with friendly countries.

But Miyazawa said Japan would not change the basic idea of trimming defense capability to a minimum without considering potential enemies.

The prime minister said the basic ideas of the plan have not been affected by the political and military situations following the end of the cold war.

Referring to political reform, Miyazawa said he will decide "as soon as possible" on ways to promote reform, which he said party members are working to conclude.

Miyazawa said the Diet should give priority to deliberations on legislation to control election funds, to reduce the number of seats in the lower house, and to introduce single-seat constituencies.

Business Leader Urges Diet Debate on Reform

OW0402122692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1124 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—A Japanese business leader Tuesday urged the Diet to begin discussions on political reform in the wake of a bribery scandal involving a former cabinet minister. Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Doyukai), urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and the government to immediately start discussions on implementing political reform.

"It may not be possible (in reality), but I wish we could halt political donations until the government makes substantial progress with its political reform programs," Hayami said at a press conference. He added that the number of ways in which money is funneled to politicians has increased, saying the government should move swiftly to improve the transparency of polical donations.

The business leader's comments followed the indictment last week of Fumio Abe, a former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agency, for allegedly accepting bribes from steel frame maker Kyowa Co.

Toyota Reports Compensation Receipt to Ministry

OW0402053292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0452 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Nagoya, Feb. 4 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. has submitted to the Finance Ministry revised financial reports incorporating compensatory payments it received from a securities firm for stock trading losses, financial sources said Tuesday.

Toyota thus became the 107th and last Japanese company to meet a ministry demand for such reports, made through the Japanese institute of certified public accountants, the sources said.

Toyota was among the leading Japanese companies that received compensation of more than 100 million yen each from securities firms to cover their losses in stock trading. The scandal was exposed last year.

The sources said Toyota, in revising its financial reports for the business year ended June 30, 1990, attached explanatory notes on 2,188 million yen it received from Daiwa Securities Co. as compensation for stock market losses.

The notes said the amount, written off by Daiwa as trading losses resulting from efforts to maintain customer relations, was included as part of interest and rebate payments received by Toyota under money trust contracts.

Banks To Begin New Fund Managing Instrument

OW0102111192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0952 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Trust banks are preparing a new instrument of fund management in which yield is linked to investment performance, rather than to fixed yield as in the currently popular loan trust, an industry source said Saturday.

The Finance Ministry has already given approval for the new instrument, which is specially targeted to individual investors, so that it can be introduced as early as June, the source said.

In the new instrument, an investor deposits a minimum of 3 million yen in a trust bank for three to five years, according to the source. The trust bank will then invest up to 40 percent of the money in securities, of which half can be invested in stocks. The ceiling for investment in securities compares with 30 percent in existing loan trusts.

While an existing loan trust guarantees the principal, the new instrument does not, but it could bring a higher yield, the source said. Another feature of the new instrument is that yield is linked to investment performance of each trust bank.

Yield for an existing loan trust is linked to yield on five-year bank debentures at long-term trust banks, so yield is the same at all trust banks regardless of performance.

Brokerages, Trust Banks Warned Against Paybacks

OW0302131692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1255 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has warned brokerage houses and trust banks not to use proceeds from commissions on government debt servicing to compensate favored clients for investment losses, financial sources said Monday.

The practice, which has come under criticism, has long been common among brokerage houses and trust banks, though both have denied compensating clients with commission paybacks.

Brokerage houses and trust banks earn commissions by servicing debt on behalf of the government or corporate bond issuers. They receive 0.9 yen from the government on the face value of 100 yen of government bonds it redeems.

The sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that brokerages and trust banks sometimes recycle up to half their commissions from bond debt servicing to compensate major clients. Such commission proceeds can amount to several hundred million yen, they said.

Some brokerage houses have returned all commissions on corporate debt servicing to the issuers, while refusing to discount their underwriting fees on bond offerings, the sources said.

A spokesman for Nomura Securities admitted to KYODO NEWS SERVICE that his firm paid back part of government debt commissions to corporate government bond holders. But he added that the brokerage industry is now moving toward ending the practice because it may not sit well with the public.

Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corp. also has engaged in the practice but it may follow the lead of brokerages in eliminating the behavior, a bank spokesman told KYODO.

Foreign Exchange Reserves Decrease Reported

OW0302095092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0922 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Japan's foreign exchange reserves decreased 279 million dollars in January to 68,701 million dollars, posting the first drop since August last year, the Finance Ministry reported Monday.

The ministry declined to comment on the decrease but informed sources said Bank of Japan intervention to bolster the weakening value of the Japanese yen against the dollar in mid-January was responsible for the drop.

The central bank carried out the yen-supporting operation in the United States through the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the sources said.

The ministry also announced foreign exchange reserves held in major countries at the end of November and in Taiwan at the end of October.

Taiwan led the list with its reserves totaling 77.8 billion dollars, followed by the United States with 76.2 billion dollars, Japan with 67.9 billion dollars, Germany with 65.9 billion dollars, and Spain with 63.9 billion dollars.

Bank of Japan Executive Directors Appointed

OW0302040592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0342 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on Monday appointed Kunio Kojima and Tatsuya Tamura as executive directors of the Bank of Japan [BOJ] as part of the central bank's personnel reshuffle, according to ministry officials.

In the senior managerial reshuffle, Yutaka Yamaguchi, director of the Research and Statistics Department, replaces Kojima as director of the Policy Planning Department.

Toshio Yoshizawa, manager of the BOJ's Nagoya Branch, replaces Tamura as director of the Credit and Market Management Department.

Akira Kanno and Tadashi Okada retired as executive directors, the officials said.

Hata Says Economy Currently in Adjustment Phase

OW0402063392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0608 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata told a Diet committee Tuesday that his ministry seeks to promote a smooth transition to sustained economic growth from the current "adjustment phase."

Hata, in a policy speech before the House of Representatives Finance Committee, said the Japanese economy is in an "adjustment phase" before moving on to noninflationary, sustained growth while maintaining full employment.

He said his ministry will promote the transition to the next phase by implementing the fiscal 1992 draft budget and taking advantage of last year's three cuts in the official discount rate.

The Bank of Japan last cut the key rate by half a percentage point December 30 to an annual 4.5 percent.

The contents of Hata's speech were basically the same as those of a policy speech he delivered January 24 at a lower house plenary session.

But unlike in the previous speech, Hata used the phrase "adjustment phase" in describing the current Japanese economic conditions. The same phrase was used by the Economic Planning Agency in its latest monthly economic report for January.

He also emphasized the need to promote cooperation in economic policies among industrial countries for stable development of the world economy, after the group of seven industrial nations pledged such cooperation at a meeting of their finance ministers and central bank governors January 25.

Motor Vehicle Sales Decrease From Year Ago

OW0302084792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0811 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Domestic sales of new motor vehicles in January declined from a year earlier due mainly to sluggish demand for subcompact cars, extending the year-on-year losing streak to nine months, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association reported Monday.

The association said sales of new cars, trucks, and buses, excluding minivehicles, totaled 316,775 vehicles, down 0.9 percent from a year earlier.

Sales of passenger cars accounted for 213,873 units, up a slight 0.1 percent, the first upturn in 17 months, the association said.

Association officials attributed the decrease in vehicle sales to sluggish demand for subcompact cars, which normally account for about half of the total sales.

The association said sales of compact cars surged 48.2 percent over a year earlier to 49,812 units, while those of subcompact cars fell 8.9 percent to 164,061 units.

Sales of trucks declined 2.9 percent to 101,766 units but those of buses rose 8.9 percent to 1,136 units, the association said.

Association officials painted a gloomy outlook for vehicle sales on the domestic market at least for the first half of this year.

RISC 64-Bit Microprocessor Lineup Unveiled

OW0302110992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—NEC Corp. has begun marketing worldwide a new lineup of 64-bit reduced instruction set computing (RISC) chips which can be connected to perform multiprocessing capabilities in high-level personal computers, workstations, and minicomputers, company officials said Monday.

The new VR4000MC chip has a single-chip performance of 90 million instructions per second (MIPS) and four-chip interface multiprocessing performance of 350 MIPs, the officials said.

The new chip is compatible with NEC's VR3000 series, 32-bit products, they said.

Engineering samples will be available in March, priced at 300,000 yen a piece, they said.

Volume production is expected to begin in May, starting at 10,000 chips a month.

'Pessimism' in Small, Medium-Sized Enterprises

OW0402101192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0952 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 (KYODO)—Business sentiment among small and medium-sized companies worsened in the October-December quarter, with pessimism outpacing optimism for the first time in four and a half years, according to a survey released Tuesday.

The government-financed Small Business Finance Corp. said its survey found that its index measuring business sentiment stood at minus 4.2 for the October-December quarter, slipping into the minus column for the first time since the January-March quarter of 1987.

The index of business sentiment is forecast to fall further in the January-March quarter, standing at minus 16.4, or the lowest level since late 1985 when a higher yen caused an economic downturn in Japan.

The index reflects the percentage of companies reporting improved business conditions minus the percentage of companies reporting otherwise.

Responding to the survey were 39.5 percent of the 12,321 small and medium-sized firms to which the public corporation provides loans.

About half the respondents replied after the Bank of Japan lowered its official discount rate by half a percentage point to 4.5 percent per annum on December 30.

Corporation officials said the survey results suggested deteriorated earnings at manufacturers amid an overall economic slowdown as the business environment surrounding smaller firms is getting tougher.

The survey also found that export-dependent firms were more bearish on their business than those which do not export their products, mirroring a stronger yen which has made their products more expensive abroad.

The business sentiment index stood at minus 9.9 for small and medium-sized firms whose exports account for more than 30 percent of sales against plus 0.2 for those which do not export products.

Regarding sales, the survey showed the index representing the percentage of firms reporting increased sales minus that of those which reported decreased sales stood at 6.5, the lowest level in four and a half years.

Overtime Conditions Said Worse Than Reported

OW0402095792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 04 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 (KYODO)—Japanese businessmen and civil servants are working far more extra hours than government statistics show, while one out of four are not being paid for the overtime, a private survey showed Tuesday.

According to a poll by Recruit Research Co., these workers' annual overtime averaged 451 hours, over 200 hours more than a figure earlier compiled by the Labor Ministry.

For fiscal 1990, the ministry has said average overtime at companies with more than 30 employees was 238 hours per year.

The recruit survey was conducted in November on 15,485 male government officials and businessmen living in the areas within 50 kilometers of metropolitan Tokyo, with ages ranging from 20 to 49. Valid responses came from 19.7 percent.

Over 30 percent of the pollees said they worked more than 50 hours overtime a month, according to the survey.

The ministry has called for overtime to be reduced to less than 50 hours a month and advised the upper limit of extra hours be set around 450 hours a year.

On an industry basis, employees in transportation, warehouses, publishing, media, and financial institutions worked the most overtime.

About 55 percent said they are being paid for their overtime, while 24.9 percent said they are not.

Appliance Industry Asked To Conserve Resources

OW0402122792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Osaka, Feb. 4 KYODO—The government has asked the home electric appliances industry to refrain from remodeling their products frequently so as to preserve natural resources and reduce work hours, officials disclosed Tuesday. The officials said the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) made the request in a meeting with executives of major electric appliances manufacturers in late January.

The request followed a decision by the automobile industry to carry out model changes for vehicles after longer intervals. The officials said the appliances makers were asked to refrain from carrying out minor model changes that would not affect the functioning of products. The manufacturers also were requested not to change design and functions of products at least for one year after they were first marketed, the officials said.

The appliance makers have so far introduced new models of videocassette recorders and air conditioners twice a year and cordless phones and word processors every three months to stimulate demand. The officials said the frequent model changes waste natural resources such as steel and aluminum and increase industrial waste. The request also is aimed at reducing the work load of employees, particularly engineers engaged in product development, the officials said.

Tsuzo Murase, vice president of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., welcomed the government request, saying frequent model changes have not benefited consumers. He said it is natural for manufacturers to try to develop and offer value-added products to consumers.

North Korea

Kim Yong-nam Returns From Cambodia, Laos, SRV

SK0302103892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier and foreign minister, returned home today after a visit to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

He was met at the airport by First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu and Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Van Trong and Chinese Ambassador Zheng Yi in Pyongyang.

Remarks by U.S. Forces Commander Condemned

SK0402122692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1113 GMT 4 Feb 92

["Shameless Artifice To Stay in S. Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—RisCassi, commander of the U.S. forces occupying South Korea, recently told a reporter that the U.S. troops would be left in South Korea as long as the South Korean people "want" them. Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today asks who would like the occupation of his country by imperialist aggression troops.

The news analyst says:

The United States invented the lie that "people want" it, finding it hard to justify its military occupation of other's region any longer with the pretext of "security," "deterrence" and the like today when the military confrontation system of the cold war era is collapsing.

He recalls that Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, cried about "potential threat from the North" and the need of the presence of the U.S. Forces in South Korea. Facts show that there is no change in the U.S. Korean strategy and its line of division and war or in their plan to keep U.S. troops in South Korea and go ahead with their Korean and Asian strategy.

Worse still, RisCassi cried that South Korea would remain under the U.S. "nuclear umbrella." This shows their invariable design to step up Korean strategy based on the nuclear strategy.

There is no pretext for the United States to justify its occupation of South Korea at a time when the inter-Korean agreement was adopted and the joint declaration on the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula was published. The U.S. troops endangering the peace of Korea must be withdrawn from South Korea at an early date.

Daily: U.S., South 'Have Not Changed' Stance

SK0402121392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1108 GMT 4 Feb 92

["Figures Accuse Warmaniacs"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged various forms of aerial war exercises by mobilizing more than 16,000 war planes and the U.S. imperialists committed aerial espionage against the northern half of Korea on some 250 occasions by sending various strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes including "U-2" high-altitude strategic plane in one month of January.

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

Figures and facts show that the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group have not changed their stance of confrontation and war of the cold war era in spite of the situation that has changed after an important agreement on nonaggression and a joint declaration on the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula were adopted and published by the North and the South, and they have got overheated in war rackets without the signboard of "Team Spirit" after they announced that they would not stage the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises this year.

It is the height of sarcasm that the South Korean puppets, while madly kicking up a war clamor against the North in collusion with the U.S. imperialist aggression troops, claim that it is needed "for a smooth development of North-South dialogue". This is a sophistry which can be uttered only by war-thirsty elements.

Such war hysteria is a deliberate move to turn back the current of the situation on the Korean peninsula which has begun to flow toward detente with the adoption of the North-South agreement.

Facts show that the South Korean authorities do not have the least intention to implement the North-South agreement. The United States and the No Tae-u group must renounce their stance of confrontation, the leftover of the old era, urges the commentary.

South Urged To Abolish National Security Law

SK0302050892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities must scrap the "National Security Law" ["NSL"], an anti-reunification, fascist law, and immediately release those who visited the North and the champions of reunification and democracy who are now suffering behind bars, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

If the North and the South of Korea are to honestly implement "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South", they must not resort to confrontation but unite and cooperate with each other on the basis of the independent spirit of the nation, the article says, and continues:

What is important here is for the South Korean authorities to renounce the confrontation policy of the old era, scrap the notorious "NSL", its product, and take a stand of seeking reconciliation and unity.

The "NSL" maintained by the South Korean authorities is the most anti-nation, anti-reunification law that destroys great unity of the nation.

It totally rejects the unity of the nation by defining the northern half of the country as an "anti-state organization" and as the "enemy". National reconciliation, unity and reunification are unthinkable with the "NSL" left intact, the law which antagonizes the fellow countrymen in the North with whom the South Korean people should live together in a reunified country as "members of an anti-state organization".

The abolition of this evil law is badly needed in view of the demand of the nation for reunification through confederation based on great national unity, the article notes, and stresses:

Through the historical agreement the North and the South declared at home and abroad that they would solve the questions of peace and reunification of the country with concerted efforts, the efforts of the nation's internal force.

The new reality clearly shows that the "NSL", an offspring of anti-communist and confrontation policy of the old era finds no ground to exist any longer.

Noting that the abolition of this evil law is a unanimous demand of the entire fellow countrymen, the article says it is a hypocrisy and a mockery of the people who are longing for reunification to talk about "reunification" and "cooperation and exchange" with it left intact.

If the South Korean authorities persistently maintain the fascist laws and seek anti-communism and confrontation, they will meet a stern judgement of the whole nation.

South Korea-Japan Treaty Compensation Assailed

SK0402014192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Commentary by NODONG SINMUN on 29 January: "Traitors and Aggressors Will Never Be Forgiven"]

[Text] In its recent editorial, the South Korean newspaper HANGYORE SINMUN called for the traitorous South Korea-Japan Treaty fabricated in 1965 to be revised.

The editorial said that compensation for the victims of the comfort girls corps is something that can never be conceded. This is an extremely natural demand.

Treaties and agreements between the South Korean puppets and the Japanese reactionary ruling circles, signed as a result of South Korea-Japan talks at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, were traitorous documents by which the puppets sold national interest to the Japanese reactionaries, as well as documents of aggression that whitewashed the crime-ridden history of the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule of Korea and legalized the Japanese reactionaries' scheme to stage another invasion of South Korea.

They were the products of the U.S. imperialists' aggression policy aimed at tying South Korea to the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries as a double colony by fabricating a tripartite military alliance between the United States, Japan, and South Korea, at standing in the way of peace in Korea and its independent and peaceful reunification, and at perpetuating the division of Korea.

Not only have we refused from the beginning to recognize these traitorous and aggressive treaties and agreements fabricated between the South Korean puppets and the Japanese reactionaries, but we have also declared them void.

The South Korean people are now indignant at the South Korean puppets who have restored relations between South Korea and Japan with $300 million claimed against Japan for the damage done to the Korean people's property, without ever demanding that Japan make reparation for the sufferings inflicted on the Korean people.

As was reported by a South Korean paper, at the initial stage of talks with Japan the puppets made property claims against Japan at $2.2 billion, a great deal less than as can be claimed against Japan for the sufferings inflicted on the Korean people, without demanding that Japan compensate for the humanitarian loss inflicted upon the Korean people who suffered from all manner of difficulties and even died as prostitutes serving the Japanese Army soldiers, as forced laborers, and as conscripted soldiers.

This notwithstanding, those in the South Korean ruling clique were blinded by the lure of economic cooperation offered by Japan and settled the issue of property claims as part of the political package settlement with only $300 million, waiving their earlier property claims. What a crime this is!

To speak of the prostitutes who served the Japanese Army soldiers that has now become an issue, the Japanese imperialist aggression Army committed such shuddering criminal acts as forcibly recruiting nearly 200,000 Korean women, including 12-year-old female elementary school pupils, to make them prostitutes serving the Japanese soldiers. The number of Korean people who were forced by the Japanese imperialists to work at coal mines and mines and in construction sites and eventually were whipped to death while participating in hard labor are estimated at about 1 million.

Facts that even young children of elementary schools were recruited and made to die in the battle sites have recently been revealed. Of course, these represent only a bit of the sufferings inflicted by the Japanese imperialists on the Korean people.

How much did the Japanese imperialists plunder such natural resources as gold and such agricultural and fishery products as rice from Korea!

Settling the question of making claims against Japan for the staggering number of crimes the Japanese imperialist aggressors committed against the Korean people the enormous amount of plunderings during the 36 years of colonial rule with the receipt of only $300 million is nothing but a treason by the traitors who ceased to be Korean people.

The fact that Japan has paid $8 million as compensation to the Philippines and Indonesia, countries that the Japanese imperialists occupied for only a few years, should not be overlooked.

What should not go unnoticed is that the South Korean puppets consented to the dictates of the agreement that the question of claims against Japan have been resolved completely and finally and that no more claims can be made against Japan in the future. Indeed, this constitutes the worst kind of treason.

The South Korean paper HANGYORE SINMUN said that although the successive South Korean ruling cliques and the successive Japanese Governments have chorused that compensation for the Korean victims, including the victims of 'comfort girls' corps, has been resolved as a result of the agreement on claims against Japan signed in 1965, all the people in the country flatly refuse to heed their chorus.

What is at stake is the current No Tae-u regime's attitude. It was none other than Kim Chong-pil, co-chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party, who took the leading role in the criminal South Korea-Japan talks and in fabricating the treaty and agreement.

Traitor Kim Chong-pil, in meeting with the then Japanese foreign minister, said that he would see to it that the South Korea-Japan talks reached a conclusion even at the risk of being branded another Yi Wan-yong [the person chiefly responsible for signing the Protectorate Treaty between Korea and Japan signed in 1905]. Even in talks between South Korea and Japan, he vowed that he would make the South Korea-Japan talks successful even if he might be called a traitor and then sold national interest to the Japanese imperialist aggressors without a moment's hesitation.

It was none other than Kim Chong-pil that hammered out a practical agreement based on a political compromise over the question of claims against Japan during his two rounds of junkets to Japan in the fall of 1962. It was also none other than traitor Kim Chong-pil that revived the talks that had hit a snag in 1964 and eventually brought it to an end.

Kim Chong-pil, a pro-United States and pro-Japan running dog, is another Yi Wan-yong who took the leading role in signing the South Korea-Japan treaty.

What has South Korea gained in exchange for the South Korea-Japan treaty? South Korea has allowed itself to be reduced to a double colony serving the United States and Japan by opening the door wide for Japan to stage another invasion of Korea. The other gain is the deficit of $66.2 billion it has posted in trade with Japan.

Nevertheless, traitor No Tae-u has put traitor Kim Chong-pil in the office of the ruling DLP's co-chairman. Kim Chong-pil even aspires to have himself elected to the presidential office.

Even today when the South Korea-Japan treaty is widely considered a mistake, traitor No Tae-u craftily schemes to muddle through the controversy, without making any effort to rectify it.

During the Japanese prime minister's recent junket to South Korea, traitor No Tae-u curried favor with him, calling the latter his partner and uttering hardly a word about compensation for the crimes committed against the Korean people by the Japanese imperialists, including the question of 'comfort girls.'

Then, he called his administrative underlings to a meeting and affected a posture of urging them to take measures for the victims of the 'comfort girls' corps as the people frown upon the government's lukewarm attitude toward it.

His posture drove the Japanese paper ASAHI SHIMBUN to say: The past history concerning 'comfort girls' has once again given rise to anti-Japanese sentiment in South Korea, but South Korea's past habit of hushing down after hearing words of apology and self-examination from the Japanese prime minister seems likely to repeat itself.

The traitor No Tae-u's attitude of taking no notice of the need to unveil the truth about the 'comfort girls' and to have Japan compensate for the victims and his attempt to hush up the issue in a bid to avoid offending Japan is nothing but an expression of the traitorous disposition of the successive puppets, as well as a new kind of treason.

The Japanese Government, while uttering such sweet-sounding words as apology for the victims of 'comfort girls' corps, has already excused itself, arguing that the question was settled in the 1965 agreement. The Japanese Government denied its predecessor government's involvement in the recruit of 'comfort girls' in the first place, but later admitted it only after documents proving that the Japanese imperialist aggression Army recruited the Korean women as prostitutes serving the Japanese Army soldiers had been found in the Japanese Army ministry documents preserved in a library at the Japan Defense Agency's Institute for the Study of Defense Affairs and in a museum of exploration in Hokkaido and documents to the same effect have been open to public scrutiny in the U.S. National Archives. Nevertheless, Japan has shown no sign of making compensation for the victims. What a brazen-faced, crafty attitude the aggressors can adopt!

As was called for by the South Korean people, the South Korea-Japan treaty, including the question of claims against Japan which the South Korean puppets and the Japanese reactionaries settled in collusion, was a mistake and should, therefore, be reviewed as a matter of course.

Japan should compensate for the enormous material and humanitarian loss inflicted upon the Korean people in the past by the Japanese imperialist aggressors, without fail.

Under no circumstances will our people in the North and South forgive the criminal acts committed by the South Korean traitors and the Japanese reactionaries.

South Farmers' Rice Protest Viewed

SK0202084092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0803 GMT 2 Feb 92

["Just Resistance for Existence"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—The protest peasants in Muan County, South Cholla Province, South Korea, staged some time ago in demand of a halt to import of U.S. rice, fair rice prices and purchase of all the autumnal food grain was only too just a struggle to terminate the U.S. imperialists' colonial domination and plunder and defend the national dignity and their vital rights, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

Recalling that the No Tae-u ruling group drove armed police to whisk away peasants, the news analyst goes on:

This shows that it is a group of despicable traitors trying hard to have the colonial fascist dictatorial "regime" maintained and the remaining days of their dastardly political life prolonged in return for defending the interests of their American master.

It is not because they have surplus grain but because they have to raise money for current use and farming fund that the South Korean peasants are now urging the authorities to purchase rice, expecting to starve.

The U.S. imperialists' rice market opening pressure is, in fact, a brigandish tyranny of the colonial ruler, and the sycophant traitorous act of subserviency of the South Korean rulers and their treacherous rice purchase policy are a "policy" and murderous act of driving the South Korean agriculture to catastrophe and the peasants to death.

The South Korean authorities must purchase the whole autumnal grain as demanded by the peasants and immediately give up their scheme to open the market to U.S. agricultural produce.

Daily Praises Success of ASEAN Summit Meeting

SK0102105692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 1 Feb 92

["NODONG SINMUN Hails Success of ASEAN Summit"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—The fourth meeting of heads of government of the ASEAN marked a new stage in strengthening unity and cooperation among Southeast Asian countries and contributed to the struggle of the Asian people to build a new Asia, independent, peaceful and prosperous. The Korean people warmly hail the success of the meeting, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today.

The ASEAN has played an important role in the work to realise multi-faceted cooperation among the member nations, turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality and preserve peace and stability in this region, the commentary notes, and continues:

Today Asia is entering a new phase of development. The rapid economic development of the ASEAN countries is a result of the sincere efforts of the peoples of those countries and the many-sided cooperation among the member nations.

The world says the 21st century will be an era of Asia and the Pacific. Asia must naturally belong to the Asian people. In building a New Asia, it is important to raise the role of its masters.

If the Asian people are to oppose foreign domination and interference, do away with the backwardness and poverty of the past and build a New Asia, they should further develop unity and cooperation among the Asian countries.

It is our people's desire and position to strengthen unity and cooperation with the peoples of the Southeast Asian countries in order to build a New Asia, independent, peaceful and prosperous, under the motto of independence, peace and friendship.

The Korean people will as ever make every possible effort to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with the peoples of the Southeast Asian countries in many fields.

Olympic Committee Delegation Returns Home 28 Jan

SK0102115092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] The DPRK Olympic Committee delegation led by Hwang Pong-yong, vice chairman of this committee and vice chairman of the DPRK State Sports Committee, which participated in the consultative meeting of the national Olympic Committees of East Asian countries in China, returned home by plane on 28 January.

(Yi Chang-son), vice chairman of the State Sports Committee, welcomed the delegation at the airport.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to SRV's Do Muoi

SK0102113992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today sent a message of greetings to Do Muoi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, on his 75th birthday.

Comrade Kim Il-song in his message said that the Vietnamese people are today dynamically advancing along the road of socialism chosen by them, closely rallied behind the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam headed by Do Muoi.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and two peoples would grow stronger and develop, he wished greater success in the struggle of the Communist Party of Vietnam for the victory of the socialist cause and in the responsible work of the general secretary.

SPA Delegation Meets With Egyptian Counterparts

SK0302145792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] A delegation of our country's Supreme People's Assembly headed by its Chairman Yang Hyong-sop held talks with the Egyptian People's Assembly delegation on 22 January.

Present at the talks from our side were members of the delegation and the DPRK ambassador to Egypt. From the opposing side were the vice speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly and other functionaries concerned, including the chairman of the National Democratic Party's parliamentarian group, who also holds the title of deputy general secretary of the National Democratic Party and secretary in charge of organizational affairs;

the chairman of the People's Assembly Committee for Foreign Relations; and the president of the People's Assembly.

The talks progressed in an amicable atmosphere.

The delegation made a courteous visit to the president of the Egyptian Consultative Council.

In the meeting the president of the Egyptian Consultative Council said that the Egyptian Government and people hope that Korean reunification will be achieved at an early date commensurate with the desire of the Korean people and that the Egyptian people will, as in the past, support with all their might the Korean people's effort to reunify their country.

The delegation met and conversed with Yusuf Amin Wali, general secretary of the Egyptian National Democratic Party and vice premier and minister of agriculture, in a friendly atmosphere.

The general secretary of the Egyptian National Democratic Party said that His Esteemed Excellency President Kim Il-song and President Mubarak have long nurtured their deep friendly ties and stressed that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries are developing satisfactorily based on the special ties between the leaders of the two countries.

The delegation toured many provinces such Aswan and al-Ismailiyah 24-27 January.

Import-Export Agreement Signed With Finland

SK0102055492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—An intergovernmental agreement on the export and import of some garments between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Finland was signed here.

South Korea

Skepticism in West on DPRK Denuclearization

SK0402104592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1014 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 4 (YONHAP)—Skepticism runs high in the West about North Korea's real intention behind the signing of the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency last week, Western diplomatic sources here said Monday.

It would take at least six months for the accord to take effect after ratification by the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea, a period long enough to conceal the atomic-bomb plants, according to the sources.

They said it was necessary to be reminded of Iraq, which had escaped outside inspection for several years.

The sources expected Pyongyang to try to make such excuses for delaying the ratification as celebration of North Korean President Kim Il-song's 80th birthday and possible summit talks between Kim and South Korean President No Tae-u.

DPRK Envoy Sets Schedule for Nuclear Accords

SK0402034992 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent Kim Yong-tae from UN Headquarters]

[Text] Pak Kil-hyon, North Korean ambassador to the United Nations, said that North Korea would allow nuclear inspection right after ratifying the international nuclear safeguards accord, which will be within six months.

In a news conference at the United Nations today, Ambassador Pak said: The schedule for the first nuclear inspection of North Korea by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], which will follow ratification of the nuclear safeguards accord, will be set up through discussions between the North Korean Government and the IAEA.

Ambassador Pak continued: Other countries may have misgivings about North Korea's nuclear development. We plan to open all the nuclear facilities under suspicion.

North Korea signed the IAEA nuclear safeguards accord on 30 January in Vienna, Austria, but being concerned that North Korea may delay the nuclear inspection though signing the accord the ROK, Japan, and the United States have urged North Korea to ratify the nuclear safeguards accord.

ROK To Propose Mutual Nuclear Inspection in Feb

SK0402004592 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] To remove the nuclear obstacle from the development of North-South relations, the government has decided to promote above all a North-South simultaneous nuclear inspection and to strongly propose it to the North side at the 7 February contact of both sides' delegates.

A government authority said: Though North Korea signed the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] nuclear safeguards accord on 30 January, it will take more than three months for the inspection to be executed through ratification. Therefore, it is necessary to have a mutual inspection between North and South Korea in addition to the IAEA nuclear inspection.

Yi Tong-pok, spokesman of the high-level talks, said: To improve North-South relations, it is important to remove first of all the misgivings about North Korea's nuclear development. It is our stance that the North-South simultaneous nuclear inspection should be carried out by the end of

February to create a trust-based atmosphere between North and South Korea and to make a remarkable development in North-South relations.

Spokesman Yi Tong-pok continued: We will strongly urge North Korea to hold contacts of both sides' delegates as soon as possible to discuss the formation and operation of a nuclear control committee, of which was agreed after the announcement of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula.

According to such a policy, the government will discuss the issue of forming a nuclear control committee and the issue of North-South model inspection along with the issue of forming the subcommittees, which is a follow-up measure of the North-South agreement, at the next delegates' contact at Panmunjom on 7 February.

DPRK Vice Foreign Minister on Japan Talks

SK0102051392 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 1 Feb 92 p 2

[Interview with Chon In-chol, DPRK vice foreign minister, by reporter Kim Yong-su on 31 January at DPRK Embassy in Beijing]

[Text] [Kim Yong-su] I understand that we are the first ROK reporters ever to enter the North Korean Embassy in Beijing.

[Chon In-chol] As is widely known, the North and South have already signed a joint agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and exchange and cooperation. I believe that mutual visits and exchange will develop in full between the North and South according to the spirit of the joint agreement.

This being the case, it is natural for South Korean reporters to enter the embassy, and I find nothing unnatural in it. Much could have been unnatural while the North and South remained isolated from each other, but now this is past.

[Kim] Will ROK reporters be allowed to attend news conferences at the North Korean Embassy in the future?

[Chon] Of course they will be. You may continue to attend them in the future.

[Kim] The Japanese prime minister apologized for the comfort girls during his recent visit to the ROK. He also said that Japan reflects on its past.

North Korea is expected to strongly press Japan to account for the comfort girls issue at the next round of Japan-North Korea talks to normalize their relations. Are you not inclined to make joint efforts with the South in resolving this question?

[Chon] The comfort girls issue is what our side pressed Japan to account for since the fourth round of talks. We strongly support the fact that people from all social strata in the South have strongly demanded that Japan compensate for the comfort girl victims. Japan must accept such a demand for compensation.

We in the North and South are of the same race and share the same blood vessels and have suffered indescribably from difficulties and misfortune caused by Japan. So, I think that the national sentiment expressed in our demands for Japan's apology and compensation can naturally be unanimous. I am not in the position to predict in what form this will appear, however.

Even the Japanese side, I believe, is well aware of the fact that we in the North and South, who have suffered together from the difficulties caused by outside forces, are determined to move toward reunification on the principle of reconciliation and cooperation.

[Kim] Has the North, too, conducted an investigation into the comfort girl victims?

[Chon] Since the fourth round of talks with Japan, we have been inundated with many letters from countless numbers of people who talked about their misfortune and sufferings.

An elderly woman in her eighties said that her daughters had never returned after being recruited by the Japanese. Since most of the girls recruited as comfort girls died, however, we have no way of knowing exactly how many were recruited.

[Kim] Do you plan to include the demand for Japan's compensation for the comfort girls in the main agenda items to be discussed at the Japan-North Korea talks to establish diplomatic relations or will you handle it separately?

[Chon] We will see what we can do about the issue of compensation.

[Kim] Has your side demanded in the sixth round of talks that Japan compensate for the war victims? If you did, how much did you ask for?

[Chon] We have demanded that Japan compensate for the victims, but we have never discussed how much it will be. Nevertheless, we have handed the Japanese side basic data on the humanitarian and material sufferings. The data is specific about the number of people who died, saying, for example, that the number reaches 1 million, or that the total amount of gold plundered by the Japanese is estimated at about 300 tons.

[Kim] If the Japanese side continues to refuse to reflect on its past and apologize for it, do you intend to shelve the talks?

[Chon] We once strongly warned the Japanese side about such a possibility in a bid to urge Japan to make efforts toward a fruitful settlement. At any rate, it is good that talks are under way between Korea and Japan and that we are not in a hurry. We consider as equally acceptable whether we establish relations with Japan or do not establish relations with Japan. Have we not lived well and independently for over 50 years? Even so, we will try to establish diplomatic relations with Japan until such time as Japan is ready to normalize ties with us.

[Editor's note] This interview began at 1250 local time on 31 January in a hall on the second floor of North Korean Embassy in Beijing and lasted about two hours.

Government To Buy Enriched Uranium From China

SK0302031892 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 3 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 2 February that the Ministry of Energy and Resources is pushing ahead with a plan to purchase enriched uranium—nuclear fuel for atomic power stations—from China.

According to Ministry of Energy and Resources, relevant officials from the China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation [CNEIC] recently visited the ministry and the Korea Electric Power Corporation [KEPCO]. They proposed negotiations between CNEIC and the ROK side for the sale and purchase of enriched uranium from China. Based on this proposal, the ROK side is pushing for the purchase of the uranium.

Concerning the purchase, the ROK side is actively pushing ahead with a long-term contract which prescribes that the Hyundai General Trade Company will make a contract with CNEIC to become the sole domestic supplier to KEPCO, and will supply 500,000 pounds (225,000 kilograms) of uranium annually for 5 years, a total of 2.5 million pounds (1 million and 125,000 kilograms). The spot market price will be applied as the purchase price (current price is $8.75) and the contract is expected to total $20 million.

A relevant official in the Ministry of Energy and Resources said that "although Chinese enriched uranium is not adequate for our atomic power stations because its purity is low, it can be used if it is reprocessed." He stated that "when 18 atomic power stations are operated by 2006, the demand for nuclear fuel will increase. Therefore, we are carefully studying the purchase of Chinese uranium."

In March 1990, our nation made a long-term contract with the former Soviet Union to purchase 40 tons of Soviet-made enriched uranium annually for 10 years, totalling 4 million tons, and 70 tons were over the past last 2 years.

Enriched uranium is made after smelting uranium concentrate and enriching uranium 235 up to the 3 to 4 percent level. It is irrelevant in manufacturing nuclear weapons and is used only as nuclear fuel in atomic power stations.

Agreement With PRC To Develop Sanjiang Plain

SK0302094192 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 1 Feb 92 p 6

[Text] An ROK-China joint venture to develop Sanjiang plain will be pushed ahead on a full scale during the next 15 years to develop some 300 million pyong [1 pyong equals 3.954 square yards] of farmland.

According to Taeryuk [Continental] Research Institute, on 31 January Chang Tok-chin, president of Taeryuk General Development Company of the ROK, and Chen Yongning, president of the Agricultural Development and Construction General Corporation of Heilongjiang Province, signed a contract in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province in China, to establish the joint-venture Sanjiang Plain Agricultural Development Corporation. The contract provides that each side will own 50 percent of the shares.

The two sides agreed to invest $43 million in May this year through this joint-venture company as the first stage of investment to develop 114 million pyongs of farmland by 1998.

When the first stage is completed, this farm will produce 70,000 tons of beans and 130,000 tons of wheat. The research institute predicted that because our nation imports nearly 98 percent of these grains, the import of these items can be replaced with grain produced from this farm.

It was also learned that the two sides will expand the area of development even after the first-stage development is completed to develop farmland for beans and wheat covering some 300 million pyyong during the next 15 years.

Trade Representative to Beijing Interviewed

SK0302011892 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Interview with Ambassador No Chae-won, Korean Trade Promotion Corporation's representative in Beijing, by anchorman Kim Hong; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kim Hong] The ROK-China trade agreement which was concluded late last year came into effect 1 February. It seems that in the future, the trade volume with China will increase greatly. Especially since the ROK and China are on the verge of establishing diplomatic relations, which will supersede economic cooperative relations. There are forecasts that diplomatic relations will be established during this year. We will discuss ROK-China relations by talking with Ambassador No Chae-won, ROK trade representative in Beijing.

Since the establishment of the ROK trade representative in Beijing in late January of last year, trade volume has increased greatly. What are your impressions in this matter?

[No Chae-won] When recollecting the activities of our representative during the past year, I believe that relations between the two countries developed at a rapid pace, more so than was expected. In particular, a great result is the fact that the trade agreement was concluded, which normally cannot be achieved before establishing diplomatic relations.

[Kim] When do you think diplomatic relations between the two countries will be realized?

[No] Regarding the issue of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, rather than relations between the two countries itself, the development of the situation around the Korean peninsula has great significance. From this sense, at a time when high-level talks are being held on the Korean peninsula, I believe that good results will be achieved in the near future.

[Kim] There are worries over the fact that relations with Taiwan may be a stumbling block in establishing diplomatic relations with China. How do you think relations with Taiwan should be developed?

[No] Up till now, we have achieved many results with Taiwan in the fields of human and economic exchanges, and especially in trade relations. We will continue to promote human exchanges, and put efforts into carrying out exchanges in the trade, economic, sports, and cultural fields.

[Kim] What is the trade volume with China at this time, and how do you foresee economic cooperation with China in the future?

[No] The trade volume for last year was $5.7 billion, more than a 50 percent increase compared with the year before last and last year. Also about 80,000 people visited either the ROK or China last year. Many investments are being carried out in the form of medium and small-sized businesses. Therefore, I expect that there will be great developments between the two countries in the future.

Russian Official Expects Agricultural Cooperation

SK0302120492 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 1 Feb 92 p 7

[Interview with Anatoliy I. Sirotyuk, Russian Federation Embassy counsellor to the ROK, by reporter Hong In-pyo; date, place not given]

[Text] "I believe that the ROK peasants' valuable experiences gained in their Saemaul movement [New Community movement] will be greatly helpful to the Russian peasants, who are promoting agricultural reform."

Sirotyuk, Russian Federation Embassy counsellor to the ROK (49), stressed that "the ROK will be a better partner to the Russian Federation in agricultural fields than other countries."

He thinks that small farming instruments made in the ROK, the experiences of the Saemaul movement, agricultural technology, and greenhouse cultivation will be of great use to the Russian peasants who are now running individual farms.

He says that because the areas around Kharovsk and Primorskiy in the Russian Federation are geologically and climatically similar to the ROK, they are the best places to promote agricultural cooperation, including the establishment of a joint farm.

He says that there are approximately two or three farms in Khavovsk which have been jointly run with North Korea; that North Korea has supplied technology and manpower to Russia and Russia has supplied land, farming instruments, and housing for North Korea; and that major agricultural products have been distributed according to the ratio agreed upon by both sides.

He added that "if ROK farming instruments, machine facilities, and funds, North Korean labor forces, and Russian Federation land are effectively combined, the finest tripartite joint production will be possible."

He says that if ROK-Russian agricultural cooperation is effectively promoted, agricultural produce will no doubt be provided to North Korea, Russia, and other places. Therefore, we need not worry about the markets for the agricultural products.

Counsellor Sirotyuk said that "agricultural cooperation between the two countries should be promoted on the principle of mutual benefits" and that "agricultural cooperation does not mean the ROK will unilaterally provide funds."

He came from Kazahkstan Republic. He majored in the Korean language in Moscow University. After graduation, he worked at the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang beginning in 1966. He lived in Pyongyang for 13 years on three occasions and came to Seoul in May last year.

Counsellor Sirotyuk gave the interview in fluent Korean and expected that "many ROK enterprises and organizations will be interested in agricultural cooperation with the Russian Federation."

Enterprise Promotes Joint Bank With Vietnam

SK0302050792 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] As the scale of ROK-Vietnamese economic cooperation has recently mushroomed, a domestic bank and enterprise are promoting the establishment of a joint bank with Vietnam.

According to banking authorities and enterprises concerned, the First Bank, Daewoo, and Vietnamese "Vetcon Bank" [as transliterated] are planning to establish a joint bank in Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital, in a bid to handle foreign exchange affairs for our enterprises which will conduct activities in Vietnam. It was learned that First Bank and Daewoo are promoting negotiations with the Vietnamese side.

The capital funds of the joint bank will amount to ten million dollars. First Bank will invest 40 percent of the ten million dollars, Daewoo will invest ten percent, and Vetcon Bank will invest 50 percent.

First Bank and Daewoo explained the background for establishing a joint bank: Even though our enterprises recently started to conduct activities in Vietnam, a bank to provide them with investment funds and to help them with foreign exchange dealings has not been established and our enterprises have suffered from inconveniences.

Justice Ministry Cracks Down on Illegal Aliens

SK0102085892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0544 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—The Justice Ministry launched a massive crackdown Saturday on the rising wave of illegal aliens employed by entertainment and service establishments.

Illegal aliens will be immediately deported, and job brokers and employers will face criminal prosecution and tax sanctions, the ministry said.

Separately from each other, immigration agents will comb the nation for illegal aliens, and spot searches of restaurants, barber shops and bars by the police will be expanded to uncover illegal employment of foreigners.

Illegal immigrants, most believed to have jobs, are currently estimated at some 50,000 (including 20,000 Korean-Chinese and 25,000 Southeast Asians). The number grew from 3,895 in 1987 to 4,732 in 1988, 5,672 in 1989, 8,642 in 1990 and 16,023 in 1991.

As of the end of January, 52,443 foreigners were overstaying their visas—21,283 Korean-Chinese, 22,027 Filipinos, 2,734 Nepalese, 293 Pakistanis and 6,106 others.

Automakers Seek To Expand Latin American Markets

SK0102042392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Feb 92 p 6

[Text] Korean carmakers are ambitiously planning to expand their markets in Central and South America this year, industry sources said yesterday.

Their moves come as many countries in that region are lifting restrictions on car imports and lowering tariff rates on imported cars.

Hyundai Motor, Korea's top carmaker, is projecting exports to the countries this year at 15,000 units, compared with 7,580 cars last year.

Kia Motors also plans to sell more than 10,000 cars in Central and South America this year, compared with 3,200 last year.

Daewoo Motor will finalize its export goal for that region soon after a visiting trade mission returns home.

Hyundai, whose main markets there were Panama and Puerto Rico last year, will explore car markets in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Venezuela and Columbia.

Kia will mobilize the Ford sales network to export the Pride cars to Venezuela, while building its own sales arm in Brazil and Columbia.

Brazil, Columbia, Peru, Venezuela and Argentina have steadily lowered the tariff rates on car imports since 1990. The rates now range from 15 percent to 35 percent.

Korean carmakers are expecting tariff rates will be further pushed down, while removing more non-tariff import barriers.

Construction Ministry Announces Road Expansion

SK0202022192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Feb 92 p 8

[Text] The government plans to invest about 979 billion won on the expansion and pavement of national roads in 1992, the Construction Ministry announced yesterday.

Some 605.3 billion won was earmarked for expanding 242 kilometers of national roads as a way to alleviate ever-worsening traffic congestion on national roads, officials said.

This year's road expansion will focus on roads leading to major industrial complexes scattered across the country and national roads around big cities including the Seoul metropolitan area.

The ministry forecast that out of 910 kilometers of national roads with major traffic congestion now, about 440 kilometers or 48 percent will see improvements in traffic flow by the end of the year with the planned investment. Most expansion projects around Seoul will be completed within this year.

The ministry also allocated about 290 billion won for paving 344 kilometers of national roads this year. With the pavement completed, the pavement ratio of all national roads will climb from 95 percent in 1991 to 97 percent this year.

Minister Pledges Semiconductor Research Support

SK0102033692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Feb 92 p 8

[Text] The government will provide various incentives to semiconductor makers this year to support their investment in production facilities and R & D [research and development] projects.

Trade-Industry Minister Han Pong-su revealed the government position in a meeting with representatives of semiconductor makers at the Korea World Trade Center in Kangnam, southern Seoul, yesterday.

He called upon semiconductor makers to concentrate efforts on investing in the expansion of their facilities and R & D projects to continue their growth as an export-oriented industry.

He said that the government will fully support their investment in facilities and R & D projects in order to enhance their international competitiveness.

In the meantime, the participants asked the government to allow semiconductor makers to borrow foreign commercial loans on time to help them manufacture 16M DRAMs (dynamic random access memory) and other high-tech chips on a massive scale.

For the strengthening of international competitiveness, they called for the cut of customs duties on imports of semiconductor-manufacturing equipment.

They also asked the government to reduce bank interest rates and revive the supply of export financing loans to enterprises affiliated with business groups.

Semiconductors emerged as the nation's largest export item last year when their shipments amounted to $5.7 billion on a customs clearance basis.

The Trade-Industry Ministry predicted that semiconductor exports this year would increase 23 percent over last year to $7 billion.

Meanwhile, total sales of semiconductor manufacturers are expected to increase markedly as well.

According to the ministry, exports of semiconductors to the United States this year will reach $3.1 billion, up 30.5 percent from last year.

Exports to Japan will rise 28.2 percent to $900 million and those to the 12-member European Community will increase 15.1 percent to $535 million.

As for total sales of semiconductors this year, Samsung Electronics has set a goal at 1,400 billion won, up 22 percent from the 1,150 billion won registered last year.

Burma

Army Continues Attack Against KNU Headquarters

BK0402031992 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Martin Smith dispatch; from the "Current World Affairs" program]

[Text] It has been reported that heavy fighting is continuing in the hills surrounding the Manerplaw headquarters of the Karen National Union [KNU] in southeast Burma. The scale of the fighting is fast reaching the stage of the biggest and most decisive battle in the recent political history of Burma. We present the following dispatch from Martin Smith, who has visited the frontline:

[Begin Smith recording] In the 43-year history of KNU insurgency the government long has launched annual dry season offensives. The current target of the government is to capture the heavily defended hilltop camp of (Pawuncho). The hilltop, which is 4,000 feet high, has a commanding view of the entire Dawna Range. Should the Burmese Army capture this camp it will be able to bring in heavy artillery guns to attack Manerplaw, which is barely 10 kilometers from the hilltop.

Meanwhile, Burmese troops had taken up positions in Methawe in preparation for a simultaneous attack on Manerplaw from the south. As the battles enter the second month, the Burmese Army—which has the superior firing power—appears to have lost its initial offensive momentum. According to Thai Border Police patrol sources, the government troops, which have been attacking the heavily defended hilltop positions of the KNU alternately with heavy artillery fire and direct onslaught, have been suffering heavy casualties.

Meanwhile, the KNU leaders say that the fall of Manerplaw would not make much difference. However, the ability to capture Manerplaw would be an important morale booster to the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] in Rangoon. Since the crushing of the 1988 pro-democracy demonstrations, the once-sleepy jungle camp of Manerplaw has become an important focal point for antigovernment forces. It now houses the headquarters of many political parties and fronts.

Hundreds of students from the All Burma Students Democratic Front and the KNU troops had set aside their differences and now are jointly defending their hilltop frontline bunkers from the government's fierce offensive along the Dawna Range. The most outstanding new development in the battle is the appearance of National League for Democracy [NLD] members clad in black attire. This points to joint action between the Democratic Alliance of Burma [DAB] and the NLD supporters, although the KNU leaders believe that they are involved only in the background in the current offensive.

In an interview Bo Mya, chairman of the KNU and the DAB, said the SLORC approached the KNU three times last year before the offensive in order to enter into a separate cease-fire agreement with the KNU. He said the attempt was aimed at splitting the KNU from its alliance with the DAB and National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma. He said the KNU rejected the SLORC offer because the KNU demand for public participation of representatives of political parties was not accepted.

In the course of the two-month long offensive, the situation at Manerplaw has reached the crucial point, at which neither side can afford to make a single mistake. In previous offensives the Burmese Army required local people to join the military service, but in this year's offensives old people, women, and children from places as far away as Prome, Moulmein, and Kyaikto were captured and used as porters. Such action seems to indicate the SLORC's determination to capture Manerplaw this time. These porters now have joined the ever-increasing number of refugees who have fled from the scene of fighting to the camps along the Thai border.

More Kachin Insurgents Surrender in Bhamo 27 Jan

BK0402021892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] More members of various insurgent organization who have come to realize their wrongdoing and who have given up the armed struggle policy have been surrendering at military garrisons with weapons and ammunition.

On 27 January in the Northern Military Command, Privates Nyunt Win, Soe Lwin, and Tun Yin from the New Life Column of the Kachin Independence Army's 2d Company of the 254th Battalion, Private Bahadu from the 4th Company of the 8th Battalion, and Private Ahke from the 1st Company of the 1st Battalion surrendered at Bhamo Garrison, having come by way of Namsi. They surrendered with five weapons—two BA-63 assault rifles, two M-21 assault rifles, one BA-72 assault rifle—five magazines, and 139 rounds of light weapon ammunition.

Those who returned to the legal fold after giving up the armed struggle policy were warmly welcomed by authorities concerned at the garrison.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore

ASEAN Initiative on Regional Security Lauded

BK0302141892 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Feb 92 p 24

[Editorial: "Security: ASEAN Takes First Step"]

[Text] If two schools of thought on regional security had crystallised in the lead-up to the Fourth ASEAN Summit, the Singapore Declaration found a realistic middle ground between them. The first view, said to be shared broadly by Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore, was that the end of the Cold War demanded a fresh approach to the concept of regional neutrality. Implicit in this thinking were questions about the continued meaning and relevance of the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (Zopfan). In this view, moreover, defence ties between ASEAN states needed to be enhanced to serve regional security. The second school of thought, said to be favoured by Malaysia and Indonesia, argued that Zopfan continued to be relevant in post-Cold War Southeast Asia. Implicit in this line of thinking was a desire to limit the influence of extra-regional powers, particularly the United States, precisely because the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of the Soviet threat had left Washington with a preponderant influence in this part of the world. Proponents of this view were against any more to upgrade defence relations between ASEAN countries into an arrangement covering the whole group.

At the end of their talks this week, ASEAN leaders agreed on a document that balanced these views. The balance was possible because, instead of treating competing ideas as mutually exclusive, the grouping viewed them as differing emphases on parts of the same equation: the maintenance of regional security in a radically new strategic environment. Thus, the Singapore Declaration says that efforts to implement Zopfan will continue, but there will also be attempts to engage ASEAN members in new areas of security co-operation. While a Philippine proposal to set up a formal consultative committee on defence was not mentioned in the declaration, it says that expanded co-operation will take the form of regular discussions between foreign ministers and senior officials of ASEAN. Indonesian objections reportedly led to the rejection of a Thai plan to ask the UN Security Council's five permanent members—the U.S., Russia, Britain, France and China—to accede to ASEAN's 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, whose signatories agree to resolve their disputes peacefully. However, political and security dialogues with the external powers will be intensified through the annual Post-Ministerial Conferences, which bring together ASEAN foreign ministers and their counterparts from the U.S., Japan, Canada, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and the European Community.

The summit's initiative on Indochina was no less significant. ASEAN's security depends, among other things, on the larger security of Southeast Asia. It is therefore welcome that the meeting provided a framework for wider regional cooperation by inviting Vietnam and Laos to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, an offer they are expected to take up. The leaders also agreed to forge closer relations with the Indochinese nations after the settlement of the Cambodian conflict. This is far from saying that Southeast Asia's strategic polarisation into the ASEAN and Indochinese states—the primary fact of the region's international relations for more than a decade—is nearing an end. However, a beginning has been made.

The summit did not turn ASEAN into a defence institution: Security perceptions in the group are too divergent to make an institutionalised structure meaningful, at least for the present. However, for a group that has traditionally avoided giving security issues a high profile, the meeting does mark a point of departure. It looks forward to the creation of a new security order in Southeast Asia through incremental moves that, by providing as wide a basis as possible for agreement, make consensual politics possible. It promises to be a cautious process, but it cannot afford to be slower than the momentous global changes against whose backdrop ASEAN leaders met in Singapore this week.

Potential Conflict Over Spratly Islands Viewed

BK0102143092 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 31 Jan 92 p 34

[Editorial: "The Spat Over the Spratlys"]

[Text] More of the breast beating, teeth gnashing and posturing over the Spratlys has been seen in the past two weeks. This time it was by China and the Philippines. What has excited them is the Vietnamese-Malaysian agreement to develop jointly areas on the continental shelf in the South China Sea claimed by both countries. The excitement was unnecessary. Hanoi made it clear promptly that the agreement did not cover the Spratlys dispute because Vietnam claimed to have sovereignty over the entire archipelago. For geologists, the continental shelf is the offshore part of the seabed, which usually slopes gently away from the coast for some distance before it dips steeply to the great ocean depths. For businessmen, the continental shelf means wealth as it is often rich in natural resources like oil and gas. The continental shelf of the Spratlys is believed to be thus endowed. Small wonder, then that this chain of about 600 islands and coral reefs, some which are not visible during high tide, is being claimed in whole or in part by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines. Whoever establishes sovereignty over these inhospitable islands establishes also its sovereign right to explore and exploit the natural resources on the islands' continental shelf. Thus, in what has become a ritual, if any one claimant state seeks to strengthen its claim by placing yet another military outpost, installation or monument on it, the others protest in order not to be seen to acknowledge the rival claims. Sometimes verbal confrontation ends up in military confrontation. In March 1988, Chinese and Vietnamese troops engaged in a naval battle that sank two Vietnamese freighters and left scores dead in the Spratlys. This is the worrying aspect of the Spratlys dispute.

It is a potential flashpoint for a military conflagration in the South China Sea. The potential is all the more likely in the post-Cold War, single superpower, world. The United States has said that it will not interfere in any conflict over the Spratlys. As far as Washington is concerned, this is a regional issue in which it has no vested interest to protect. The absence of Uncle Sam's restraining hand might tempt the more adventurous regional powers to use force to resolve the dispute. If this happens, not only the claimants but others as well will be affected. Many of the sea lanes from Europe and the Middle East to the Far East pass through these islands. Singapore would definitely be affected as the country is dependent on these sea lanes for its international trade.

But a military conflict is not inevitable. The outcome is uncertain and the cost exacting. A judicial resolution is remote since its outcome is just as unpredictable for the claimant countries: It is far better to have a doubtful claim than to be told that there is no claim. What is encouraging is that some claimant countries—Malaysia, China and, more doubtfully, Vietnam—have shown a willingness to consider joint exploration and development of the area. The case for joing development is compelling. The fundamental truth is that no claimant country is going to give up its interest. All the claimant countries can benefit by moving away from seeking a final, dispositive solution to the sovereignty issue and focusing attention on regional cooperation. All will receive some benefit from the development of the archipelago's resources; by squabbling, the resources are left on the seabed, to the benefit of none.

It is here that ASEAN can play a critical part. Having broken its self-imposed silence on security matters, it can give concrete effect to its recent declaration in Singapore that it would "establish fora to promote external dialogues on enhancing security in the region as well as intra-ASEAN dialogues on ASEAN security cooperation." High on the list of such dialogues should be one to continue the Indonesian initiative in Bali in 1990 and Bandung in 1991, which appealed to the claimant countries to set aside their territorial demands and focus on how to cooperate in the area.

Natural Gas Pipeline Begins Flow From Malaysia

BK3001142092 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Jan 92 p 1

[By Chiang Yin Pheng]

[Excerpt] Singapore's move to use natural gas from Malaysia to generate electricity will trigger off the start of reduced dependence on oil within ASEAN, said Malaysia's Minister of Justice Syed Hamid Syed Jaafar Albar yesterday.

Mr Syed Hamid, who is also the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said that it would also speed up the economic development of the southern Growth Triangle grouping Singapore, Johor and Batam.

He was speaking in a ceremony at the Public Utilities board's Senoko Power Station, in which he and National Development Minister S. Dhanabalan turned on the natural gas supply from Malaysia's Petronas for power generation here.

The "turn-on" started the flow of natural gas from the Plentong Metering Station in Johor to Senoko through a 3.2-km undersea pipeline costing M$22.4 million (S$13.9 million).

Daily, about 150 million standard cubic feet of gas from the Kertih oil fields in Terengganu will flow through 730 km of pipeline before reaching here. This will yield about 700 megawatts of electricity, or about 30 per cent of the 2,600 megawatts that Singapore uses every day.

Natural gas, the common name for gases in underground oil reservoirs, generates power when burnt and is one of the four main sources of energy. The others are oil, coal and nuclear power.

In his speech before 300 officials and guests, the Malaysian minister said that with the dramatic growth in energy needs in ASEAN, it had become more pressing for the region to use alternative fuels to lessen its dependence on oil.

Pointing out that Malaysia's gas reserves could feed its own energy needs and those of Singapore and Thailand for the next 30 to 40 years, he said that the challenge was to mine these reserves cost-effectively and promote the use of natural gas within ASEAN. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Japanese Officials Meet Sihanouk, Promise Aid

BK0102075292 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0404 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 1 February (SPK)—The Japanese delegation led by Hiroshi Hashimoto, head of the Foreign Ministry's General Department on Economic Cooperation, Thursday paid a courtesy call on Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC).

Also present on this occasion were Chea Chanto, planning minister; Phi Thach, the State of Cambodia's deputy foreign minister; and Yukio Imagawa, Japanese ambassador to the SNC.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk highly appreciated the assistance of the Japanese Government to the Cambodian people in the economic restoration and repatriation of refugees from the Cambodian-Thai border.

Hiroshi Hashimoto affirmed that Japan will provide emergency aid to the Cambodian people to restore the country's infrastructure and offer 1,000 million (about eight million U.S. dollars) in reconstruction aid.

Meet Hor Namhong

BK3101132292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1107 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 31—Foreign Minister Hor Namhong met in Phnom Penh Thursday Hiroshi Hashimoto, director of the General Department for Economic Cooperation of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, who led a five-member delegation to visit Cambodia.

The Japanese delegation arrived here on January 27 for talks with Cambodian officials on the economic cooperation between the two countries and the Japanese aid to Cambodia.

Hor Namhong praised the Japanese role in economic rehabilitation and development in Cambodia and the Japanese assistance for the coming repatriation of the Cambodian refugees. He also spoke of Cambodia's economic development, especially in agricultural field over the past years.

For his part, Hashimoto said that Japan would provide one million dollars aid package to Cambodia for building Phnom Penh Port, repairing national roads No. 5 or No. 6 and for medical and educational development. He said Japan had provided up to 35 percent of the total aid for Cambodia through international agencies. Japan had actively contributed to settling the Cambodian problem, he added.

Japan Called 'Top Dollar Donor'

BK0102071692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0411 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Febuary 1—Japan took the first step in resuming bilateral assistance to Cambodia as a government delegation delivered 1.1 billion yen (eight million dollars) to the Supreme National Council (SNC), AFP quoted a Japanese official said [as received] Friday.

"I presume Japan has already become the top dollar donor" to Cambodia, Hiroshi Hashimoto from Japanese Foreign Ministry said at the end of a visit in which he assessed Japan's ability to help reconstruct Cambodia.

The eight million dollars had already been promised, but Hashimoto also announced aid worth 223,000 dollars to fund humanitarian aid organizations and feasibility studies for reconstruction and development aid.

Japan will also take 20 Cambodians to train them in the economic cooperation programs, he said.

Hashimoto and his group met with Phnom Penh's top officials, including Prince Norodom Sihanouk who is the chairman of the SNC, the interim reconciliation body set up under Cambodia's October peace agreement.

"Now we are going to strengthen our bilateral economic cooperation," Hashimoto said. He also told Cambodian leaders that Japan would host an international conference on redeveloping Cambodia, but did not give a specific timetable.

"We reiterated the intentions of the Japanese Government, and Prince Sihanouk supported the idea and said he would like to attend the meeting," Hashimoto said.

"We are studying what we should propose.... But for the time being we are not in a position to tell exactly".

Japan's Political, Financial Influence Viewed

BK0302021492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0809 GMT 30 Jan 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 30 (AFP)—Japan's political and financial influence in Cambodia is growing as Japanese officials take leading roles in the country's peace process and economic development.

With Yasushi Akashi heading the UN peacekeeping forces due to run Cambodia's elections, Sadako Ogata in charge of the repatriation of 370,000 Cambodian refugees, and Tokyo expected to foot much of the bill for these operations, Japan finds itself charged with overseeing the implementation of peace in this territory it used to control during World War II.

"Japan for some years has had very much interest in and been committed to peace in this part of the world," Akashi said Monday at the end of a six-day familiarization visit to Cambodia.

A long-time Cambodia-watcher, Akashi was in the Japanese diplomatic corps here in the 1960s.

"Japan and the Japanese are very interested in this matter, and I hope they will not let down a compatriot of theirs" where money is concerned, he said.

Japan has not yet announced its financial contribution to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which Akashi heads.

But Japanese leaders have already said the voluntary contribution would be substantial. It is obligated to put up 13 percent.

"The Japanese financial contribution to UNTAC will represent between a quarter and a third of the entire budget of the mission," a source in the UN Advance Mission said.

Japan was the first country to respond to a UN appeal in November for its program to repatriate 370,000 Cambodian refugees from Thai border camps.

It gave eight million dollars, nearly a quarter of what the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has collected so far.

Japan is also one of the biggest contributors to the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) which manages the border camps.

On Monday [27 January], Tokyo said it would provide 8.3 million dollars in emergency food supplies and cash for the camps, which are facing a food shortage.

Japan also plans to host an international conference on Cambodia's reconstruction.

"Through its activity in Cambodia, Japan seeks to recover a political role in the region worthy of its economic might," a Western diplomat said.

Nonetheless, the Japanese presence in Cambodia is relatively small, with the total community numbering about 30, including diplomats and [words indistinct] the Japanese permanent mission said.

Tokyo is not allowed to send soldiers abroad to join the 10,000 to 20,000 peacekeepers expected here this year, but Akashi has asked Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to contribute Japanese police to a needed force of 3,000.

In addition, Japanese investors looking at Indochina are much more intersted in Vietnam, said Tokyo's ambassador Yukio Imagawa.

"A number of businessmen and investors have come to Cambodia to study the market, but only two have invested directly for the moment," he said.

They are Japex, an oil company budgeting 11 million dollars for oil exploration off Cambodia's coast, and the Okada sawmill just outside the capital.

The sawmill is a family operation with an initial investment of 5.5 million dollars.

Direct aid to the government was suspended in 1973, and Tokyo announced only last year the resumption of development projects.

It promised in November to restore the Japanese Bridge, linking Pnnom Penh with the northern provinces, which it built in 1965 and which was destroyed ahead of invading Khmer Rouge 10 years later.

Japanese humanitarian aid and religious groups have been active here for years, and Imagawa said Tokyo granted 250,000 dollars to six such organizations last year.

For example, the Japan International Volunteer Center, here since 1986, set up an automobile and truck repair center to maintain the hundreds of Japanese vehicles on the streets of Phnom Penh.

The Japanese press corps, however, is disproportionately large. KYODO NEWS AGENCY, the ASAHI SHIMBUN and YOMIURI SHIMBUN newspapers, and NHK Television all have permanent staffs in Phnom Penh.

Also busloads of Japanese tourists can be seen unloading at the Cambodiana Hotel every week. Their final destination is the temples of Angkor in central Cambodia.

The number of tourists from Japan has tripled since last year, said Reth Chantha, director of the technical department at the Phnom Penh General Direction of Tourism.

"Every month, around 400 Japanese tourists visit our country, putting them in first place, followed by the French," he said.

Aid Plans Discussed

BK0302071092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0412 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 3—Japan's political and financial role in Cambodia is growing as Japanese officials take leading roles in Cambodia's peace process and economic development.

With Yasushi Akashi heading the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, Sadako Ogata in charge of the repatriation of more than 350,000 Cambodian refugees, Japan will cooperate with the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia, and assist the return and resettlement of Cambodian refugees, not only by supporting the various activities of the United Nations, such as the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), but through bilateral and multilateral assistance.

In order for the international community to approach more effectively the task of repatriation of Cambodian refugees and Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction, it will be important to coordinate the efforts of the relevant countries and international organisations. It was from such a viewpoint that Japan proposed the establishment of an International Committee on the Reconstruction of Cambodia (ICORC).

With these in mind and while closely following the developments of UNTAC activities, Japan plans to host an international conference on the reconstruction of Cambodia at an appropriate date after April 1992 in Japan.

Japan will extend for the time being urgently needed assistance, mainly humanitarian aid. It will be expanded if the aid coordination and implementation administration in Cambodia is more enhanced enough to ensure efficient usage of foreign assistance.

For a medium term, Japan will extend grants and technical cooperation, paying due attention to the three priority fields indicated by Cambodia, namely agriculture, energy and infrastructure.

Lao Foreign Ministry Group Pays Working Visit

BK3101141092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] A Foreign Ministry delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by His Excellency [H.E.] Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the LPDR, arrived on the morning of 31 January for a visit to Cambodia from 31 January to 3 February at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC].

Welcoming the Lao Foreign Ministry delegation at Pochentong Airport were H.E. Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC], and many officials and personages of the SOC Foreign Ministry.

H.E. Khamphan Simmalavong, LPDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Cambodia, and the ambassadors and charges d'affaires of some other countries in Cambodia were also present.

Sihanouk Hails 'Solid Relations'

BK0302071492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0406 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 3—Laos and Cambodia signed a cooperation agreement Saturday under which the neighboring countries pledged to respect each other's territory and sovereignty.

Laotian Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Phoun Sipaseut and Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk signed the communique at a meeting at the palace.

"We respect each others' sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity," the prince said as they signed the documents.

The agreement expresses "our great friendship uniting our two countries and two peoples, and we reaffirm we are determined to strengthen the ties of friendship and solid relations between our two countries," Prince Sihanouk said.

The agreement will also allow cooperation in the cultural, economic and scientific fields, he said.

Sipaseut, on a four-day official visit here, also met members of the Supreme National Council at the palace—including Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, Prime Minister Hun Sen and Khmer People's National Liberation Front leaders Son Sann and Ieng Muli.

Prince Sihanouk has said he would visit Laos this year but has not given a date.

Joint Communique Issued

BK0302140992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Cambodian-Lao "Joint Communique" dated 1 February 1992—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. At the invitation of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], His Excellency [H.E.] Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], paid an official visit to Cambodia from 31 January to 3 February 1992.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian SNC, received H.E. Phoun Sipaseut at Khemarin Palace. H.E. Phoun Sipaseut paid a courtesy call on H.E. Heng Samrin, chairman of the Council of State; H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; and H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Cambodian SNC.

H.E. Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Laos, held talks with H.E. Hor Namhong, State of Cambodia's foreign minister and SNC member; and also held talks with a number of SNC members. All courtesy calls and meetings went on in an atmosphere full of traditional friendship and complete mutual understanding.

During his stay in Cambodia, H.E. Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegation visited the renowned Angkor temple and various places of cultural interest.

2. The Lao side highly appreciated the policy of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian SNC, aimed at strengthening and expanding the fine traditional relations of friendship and solidarity between the Lao and Cambodian peoples. The two sides stressed the importance of the new phase of development in these traditional relations to build good-neighborly relations of friendship between the two countries on the principles of mutual respect; independence; sovereignty and territorial integrity; non-interference in each other's internal affairs; non-use of force or threat to use force; a commitment to solving all problems through peaceful means with relations of cooperation, equality, and mutual benefit between the two countries; and peaceful coexistence.

This responds to the basic long-term interests of each people.

3. The two sides encourage the promotion of economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two peoples.

4. The Lao side holds that the work carried out by the SNC in Phnom Penh under the astute and wise leadership of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk has achieved

important results in the implementation of the agreement on a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem signed on 23 October 1991 at the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

The two sides pointed out the basic importance of the rigorous and sincere implementation of the Paris agreement aimed at achieving national reconciliation and union and bringing free and unbiased general elections to build an independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia.

The two sides hold that the respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the permanent neutrality of Cambodia, stated in the Paris agreement on the Cambodian problem, is a major factor in ensuring the peace, independence, and development of Cambodia and stability in the region.

5. The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the positive development of relations among the states in Southeast Asia where relations of friendship and regional cooperation are being consolidated. This has created favorable conditions for the consolidation of peace, stability, and security in the region.

The two sides expressed their firm will to actively take part in consolidating cooperation in the region aimed at turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, friendship, and cooperation.

6. The two sides hold that the meetings and talks held during the official visit to Cambodia by H.E. Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the LPDR, have brought positive results responding to the ardent aspiration of the two people to constantly strengthen the fine traditional relations of friendship.

7. H.E. Phoun Sipaseut and his delegation expressed profound thanks for the cordial and warm welcome accorded by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian SNC, and the Cambodian side.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 1 February 1992

Australian Delegation Discusses Recovery Aid

Four Year Program Noted

BK3101094392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] A meeting with an Australian delegation was held yesterday morning at the Khemarin Palace under the lofty chairmanship of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], to discuss Australia's aid for the reconstruction of Cambodia.

The Australian delegation was led by Mr. Halloway, Australian ambassador to the SNC. On our Cambodian side, there were representatives of the State of Cambodia, Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], and National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC]. The discussion was on the distribution of aid by Australia for helping Cambodia in four fields, namely health care and promoting sanitary practices for the Cambodian people, education which will focus on promoting knowledge of the English language for the Cambodian people, repair of roads in populated areas, and agriculture.

Australia's four-year aid program is in the value of 20 million Australian dollars. The meeting participants promised to map out how they will use this aid for consideration within the next two to three weeks.

Speaking on that occasion, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk requested that the Australians urgently help in rebuilding and repairing roads and bridges destroyed by war and expressed profound thanks to Australia for paying attention to Cambodia.

Sihanouk Meets Development Official

BK0102130192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] On the morning of 30 January at Khemarin Palace, His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, granted an audience to Mr. (Teddy Calton), first secretary of Australia's International Development Aid Organization.

Mr. Chea Chanto, planning minister of the State of Cambodia; Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia; a representative of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front; and His Excellency John Scott Halloway, Australian ambassador to Cambodia, were also present.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. (Teddy Calton) thanked H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk for having received him. He also told the prince about (?the plan to provide) aid worth 50 million Australian dollars for the repair of communications networks in Cambodia, the proposal to request funds for the deployment of a contingent of the UN transitional authority in Cambodia, and the development of the educational and agricultural sectors in the country.

For his part, H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed thanks to the Australian Government for its assistance in the achievement of a definite peaceful political solution in Cambodia. He also thanked various Australian organizations for their material aid, enabling the Cambodian people to rebuild their country toward progress and prosperity.

VGNUFC Cites Sihanouk Speeches in Battambang

BK0102032392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] On 27 and 28 January 1992, in his addresses to people in Battambang Province, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], called for peace in Cambodia and genuine national reconciliation among all Cambodians.

The prince's words clearly show his profound desire of wanting the Cambodian people to have peace and national unity with genuine independence. The statements are also aimed at quickly ending the Vietnamese aggressors' war of aggression so that all Cambodians will achieve national reconciliation and unite around the SNC chaired by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, to achieve the above goals.

The major key issue is the quick dispatch of UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to cooperate with the Cambodian SNC in supervising the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

Ung Phan Interviewed After Assassination Attempt

BK0402084092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 4 (AFP)—Cambodia's best-known dissident, Ung Phan, who was nearly assassinated last week, vowed Tuesday to keep up his criticism of the government.

"I am not afraid," the former political prisoner told AFP in his first interview since two vehicles pulled up alongside his car and delivered a hail of gunfire on a road outside the capital.

"The Liberal Social Democratic Party continues. We stand for freedom and democracy," he said.

Seated uncomfortably in a wooden chair in his living room, he winced in pain as he pointed out three bullet wounds in his neck and upper back. Two shots grazed him as he ducked the volley of pistol fire, and a third lodged in his neck.

The assassins—about six or seven men firing two or three guns from two cars—were obviously aiming for his head.

"The one who stood behind these assassins is a chicken. He cannot make politics any better than I, so he tried to kill me," Ung Phan said. "I cannot tell you who. I can only say the attempt to assassinate me was political."

The shooting of Ung Phan was the second in what Cambodia's political activists believe is a campaign to eliminate them by hardliners in the Phnom Penh government who are used to the old, communist way of practicing politics.

Tea Bounlong, a senior official in charge of religious affairs who had criticized government corruption, was earlier abducted in a military vehicle, taken to a field and executed.

The incident occurred exactly one week before Ung Phan was shot, and political activists took both as warning signs.

No culprits have been found in either crime, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk said the Supreme National Council (SNC) is content to let strongman Chea Sim handle the investigation.

Chea Sim, as chairman of the ruling Cambodian People's Party and former interior minister, controls the secret police.

Ung Phan said in an interview before he was shot that he was afraid the secret police would assassinate him.

Since the shootings, interviews with four other top dissidents—including those involved in Ung Phan's party—show that political action opposing the Phnom Penh regime has been stopped.

One dissident has gone into hiding, another bought a gun, and two more who are afraid to leave their houses requested protection from Western embassies. All were too afraid to allow their names to be used.

While protection is a delicate issue, according to embassy sources, diplomatic pressure is being applied behind the scenes.

U.S. envoy Charles Twining paid a visit to Ung Phan the day after the shooting, in a car waving American flags.

"We are disturbed if acts of political violence or political intimidation appear to be taking place against anyone," he said.

"The purpose of my calling on Ung Phan was not only to express my own sympathy but to reinforce our determination as one of the signers of the Paris peace agreement that there has to be an atmosphere of political freedom, free from intimidation, if we are going to succeed in having free and fair elections," Twining said.

Ung Phan's objective is to compete against Chea Sim's party in 1993 elections mandated by the peace treaty ending the civil war.

He said that in discussions with Chea Sim within the last week, the party leader agreed to let the Liberal Social Democratic Party function.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, a long-time friend of his critic who gave him sanctuary at his home after the shooting, also agreed to let the party continue, Ung Phan said.

"They both agreed to this, and I asked them to protect me and all my colleagues," he said.

Ung Phan said he still sleeps at the prime minister's house every night.

"Hun Sen and I, we have different ideas but he is still my friend," he said. "Cambodian people cannot cut off such sentiments."

Still, Ung Phan said he would wait until the arrival of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to reveal the names of his party membership or detail their activities.

"There is still a security problem," he said.

New Anti-Terrorist Law Noted

BK0302071292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0409 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 3—Cambodia National Assembly has passed new laws to put terrorists in jail for life following a spree of politics-related violence in Cambodia.

"Anyone who conspires to kill in order to create terrorism will be imprisoned for life," the law reads. "If kidnapping or the use of illegal force against people causes injury or death, the sentence will be life imprisonment."

A government official, Tea Bounlong, was executed more than a week ago after being kidnapped in a military jeep and driven to a field outside the city.

Opposition leader Ung Phan was injured several days later as drive-by assassins shot him three times.

He survived, and was given sanctuary by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Foreign Minister Hor Namhong has also sounded the alarm, saying attacks on policemen in the provinces of Battambang and Kompong Cham have been reported in recent weeks.

Two policemen and their wives were recently decapitated by bandits, police in the province said.

Ranariddh Views Security Problem in Phnom Penh

BK0402022392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] In an interview with a correspondent of the Voice of the Khmer on 2 February, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] from the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia's party, said that at present there is no security for the SNC members to work in Phnom Penh.

This remark by Prince Norodom Ranariddh is in full accord with the real situation in our country, where Vietnamese aggressors are still everywhere both in the provinces and in Phnom Penh.

Foreign diplomatic sources and international news sources in Phnom Penh revealed that at present, 70 percent of the Vietnamese aggressor forces are in the A-3 Police Unit of the Phnom Penh party and Vietnamese leaders are still in Phnom Penh and in military regions in order to lead the Phnom Penh party.

These Vietnamese aggressor forces are agitating disturbances to foster constant insecurity in Phnom Penh. They have tried to avoid the implementation of the Paris agreement, bar the dispatch of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], and prevent the SNC from functioning normally in Phnom Penh.

Personages from diplomatic circles in Phnom Penh and of ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] are of the opinion that it is imperative to quickly send the UNTAC to Cambodia in order to join with the SNC in supervising the total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia and Phnom Penh. This will ensure security in Phnom Penh as a favorable condition for the implementation of the Paris agreement. It is imperative to send, in the first place, 1,000 UNTAC men for deployment in Cambodia—with 500 men in Phnom Penh and 300-400 men in the provinces [figures as heard]—so that they can begin the supervision work made possible by the so-called only $200 million that has been committed so far.

UNTAC Head: 15,000 Peacekeeping Troops Needed

BK0402062892 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0409 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 4—The head of a UN mission to Cambodia thinks that about 15,000 peacekeeping troops would be needed to monitor a cease-fire there and create conditions for free and fair elections, AFP reported citing diplomatic sources Monday in New York.

Yasushi Akashi, who leads the world body's mission to Cambodia, told Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali on his return from his first visit to Cambodia that he wanted to see the UN peacekeepers deployed there by June, the sources said.

This would mean the Security Council would have to rapidly produce a detailed report on the likely cost of the UN operation to monitor a cease-fire in Cambodia, create conditions necessary for free and fair elections, and supervise the return of about 350,000 refugees.

The cost of the mission, one of the largest UN peacekeeping operations yet, has been broadly estimated at more than a billion dollars.

The council has already given its agreement in principle for the disbursement of about 200 million dollars to buy necessary equipment for the operation.

The United Nations already has a 1,000-strong preparatory mission in Cambodia.

French Official on Peace After Elections

BK0402060992 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0418 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 4—The visiting chairman of the French parliamentary defense committee expressed optimism Monday about the Cambodian peace process but said U.N. forces should remain even after general elections next year.

"I think the U.N. mission will have to stay after elections to ensure a lasting peace in Cambodia," Jean-Michel Boucheron said at the end of a three-day visit with six other French legislators.

"It is clear that all weapons will not be handed over at the moment of demobilization... that people would be tempted to create trouble", he said.

"Since everyone wants the Cambodian peace process to succeed, it is probable and desirable that the mission will not leave after the elections. The U.N. presence could be maintained for a number of years," he added.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), charged with monitoring and supervising the cease-fire agreed in October, is to arrive here in several months. It is also to organize general elections in 1993.

France has already committed 111 men and women to the military contingent of the U.N. Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), which is to help the four formerly warring factions observe the cease-fire.

"The French forces in UNTAC will be very significant. They will constitute the principal core of the U.N. military contingent," Boucheron said.

During talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council, Boucheron proposed that French MPs attend the elections as observers.

He also proposed to Cambodian National Assembly President Chea Sim an exchange of French and Cambodian legislators, so the latter "could come to France to learn how the French National Assembly functions".

The French mission was to travel Tuesday to the Laotian capital, Vientiane, on the last leg of their Asian tour.

Columnist Analyzes Recent Events

BK3101021192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Jan 92 p 4

["Cambodian Diary" article by Jacques Bakaert: "Urgent Need To Fight Poverty"]

[Text] Fighting in Kompong Thom, political assassinations in Phnom Penh, corruption everywhere... is Cambodia plunging into chaos and civil war? Nobody will be surprised to learn that the Khmer Rouge is blaming most of the country's problems on the Vietnamese.

"The new Vietnamese leaders are like the old ones," said the Khmer Rouge radio in a recent broadcast. "They cry crocodile tears to mask their new aggression against Cambodia."

But few people are inclined to believe that Vietnam is to blame for everything that goes wrong in Cambodia. Of course Hanoi has a real interest in the country. Vietnam and Cambodia have a long common border, a long history of conflict. Hanoi, you can be pretty sure, maintains its eyes and ears in the country. I am less convinced, however, that it still wants the ruling Pracheachon Party to win the election.

Only a few days ago, Radio Hanoi carried some critical comments on the corruption in the top Phnom Penh leadership, something that Hanoi officials had reserved for private conversations. Two Cambodian ministries—Defence and Interior—probably still have Vietnamese "advisers" or observers. And Vietnam is certainly not anxious to see waves of Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia return to the motherland at a time when unemployment is high and the economic situation unstable.

But I seriously doubt that many Vietnamese leaders still want to fight another war in a foreign land. Khmer Rouge sources said the Vietnamese were responsible for various breaches of the cease-fire agreement, especially in Kompong Thom where fighting has indeed been going on for weeks. But reliable observers claim there is no hard evidence of Vietnamese involvement at all.

What really happened in Kompong Thom is still unclear. And this shows once again how little we know about what is taking place outside of Phnom Penh. Several versions exist, and they all blame troops from the Cambodian People's Armed Forces. One version has it that Phnom Penh forces were trying to clear a few contested areas before the arrival of UN officials; another says that Phnom Penh soldiers, who have not been paid for months, stole goods and housing materials from zones under Khmer Rouge control.

Given the poverty afflicting the various armies, the fighting probably has nothing to do with politics. "If they fight it is for food, for money... for anything but ideology," a reliable Cambodian source told us.

Violent clashes erupted a week ago among Phnom Penh soldiers near the former Sihanoukist base of O'Smach. Artillery was used and a few shells fell on a Sihanoukist area. But the cause of the fighting was simple: Some soldiers had been paid, others had not. It was enough to start a mini war along the Thai border.

Such incidents are probably unavoidable. The UN presence should help reduce them to a minimal level. The UN estimates that it will have to recover almost 100,000 weapons and over 80 millions round of ammunition. The UN military experts have also suggested that the number of regrouping zones and cantonments should be reduced from 300 to less than 100. This does not please the various armed factions because it will move the men further away from their home base. But it will increase UN control over the soldiers.

Nothing but a few serious social programmes for the demobilised soldiers would help establish a climate of peace among the troops. With the exception of the Khmer Rouge, who probably prefer to maintain strict supervision of their forces, the other factions are suffering from a severe lack of funds, and they are hoping that the UN will provide some form of assistance.

"We hope that the UN will be able to offer the soldiers what it will offer to the refugees returning home," Prince Norodom Ranarridh told us a few weeks ago. "At least enough to help the soldiers to settle into civilian life without too much difficulty."

Phnom Penh's Deputy Defence Minister Lt-Gen Nhim Vanda told us pretty much the same thing. And so did Gen Sak Sutsakhan. The KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front], the Sihanoukists and Phnom Penh do not have much money. Poverty is as worrisome as political and personal rivalries. The Cambodian war was a war of poor people—both Khmer and Vietnamese. Today a quasi bankrupt state must administer a troubled country.

Two "non-communist" factions, as they were called, are supposed to conduct an extensive electoral campaign with just a fistful of dollars. There is certainly little justification for the large-scale selling of state properties by the Phnom Penh authorities, especially since so much of the profit seems to go to individual pockets rather than back to the state. The mystery surrounding these sales only add to the frustration of the population.

But the State of Cambodia has practically no income; it still receives little international assistance. It is blamed for not paying its employees. But where is it expected to find the necesssary resources?

It should also be said that although many members of the administration are far from being communists or even supporters of the ruling party, they had to work within the frame-work of a communist-style organisation for more than a decade—an exercise that did little to prepare them for the "real" world they have to face today.

Given the circumstances, it is thus amazing that the structure of the State of Cambodia has not collapsed even further.

Amazing also that the peace process is still by and large on its feet. Much credit must go to Prince Sihanouk, who has done much unreported work, especially in the past few weeks, to keep it alive and well, to improve human rights conditions and keep a balance between the various actors. After a meeting on human rights in Phnom Penh on January 14, American Ambassador Charles H. Twining wrote to Sihanouk that "it was your skillful leadershp which made the crucial difference between success and failure."

But there are plenty of booby traps on the horizon. Prince Sihanouk is planning to leave Phnom Penh for Beijing in order to undergo medical treatment. He will also travel to North Korea for the birthday of President Kim Il-song in mid-April. One hopes that the prince wil return to Phnom Penh as soon as possible. Everything is still too fragile for him to be away for long.

In private correspondence, the prince explained that since he has no political or administrative power there is nothing much he can do to counter corruption and civil unrest. In recent weeks tough statements from the palace have been sharper and contributed to reassure many Cambodians that they had not been forgotten. Much of the country's international credibility today depends on Sihanouk. There is absolutely no doubt that he remains the single most important Khmer politician—and he is more than just a politician of course—at a time when Cambodia needs all the good people available.

Assassination has never been a fair way to settle political disagreements. It only exacerbates differences. The National Assembly has just issued a statement claiming that "over the past few days a number of police cadres, civilian cadres and people in Battambang Province, Phnom Penh and several other provinces have been kidnapped or killed." Everybody is aware of the assassination of Mr Tea Bun-long, a respected official from the religious affairs department of the Front, and the attempt on the life of former minister Ung Phan.

The communique of the National Assembly—as it is so often the case in this kind of regime—is vague and does not offer much in terms of evidence. People have accused security members from the Interior Ministry of being behind the death of Tea Bun-long, but there was no clear evidence to substantiate the accusation. Reliable sources claimed that members of the A-3 elite forces are operating again—in civilian clothes—in the provinces and blamed them for the intimidation of officials from the resistance factions.

The Khmer Rouge are still actively pursuing their campaign to slowly remove Phnom Penh control over the villages. It is part of their electoral campaign. It will certainly represent a source of friction in the future. But how could it be prevented, especially when only politics is involved?

And finally there remains the issue of corruption. More and more Cambodians feel that most commerical deals, especially those involving the selling of state assets, should be revised in the future.

Expressing their anger at the "sale of Cambodia," a group of Cambodian intellectuals living in France recently wrote that "foreign businessmen should make a distinction between the role of investors and receiver of stolen property."

The "Codisna" or Comit de Defense des Interets Superieurs de la Nation, said the true friends of Cambodia should realise that "economic and trade agreements signed recently with the Hun Sen administration are oppressive and iniquitous, and amount to an abuse of power over the weakened Khmer People."

You can expect such themes to become part of the policy of future parties. Many things can still change in Cambodia and a partial "renationalisation" cannot be completely excluded. It probably would have the support of a majority of citizens. And the Codisna could have added that questionable deals were not the exclusive privileges of men from the Phnom Penh regime.

500 SRV Troops Sent to Kompong Thom, Siem Reap

BK0402022592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] It has been reported that on 29 January, a convoy of 15 military trucks loaded with approximately 500 Vietnamese soldiers was seen moving from Phnom Penh along Route 6 toward Kompong Thom and Siem Reap Provinces.

The Vietnamese aggressors sent additional troops to these two provinces in an attempt to elevate their military offensives in this 1992 dry season.

This is a violation of the cease-fire accord and the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991, which was also signed by the Vietnamese aggressors.

At the beginning of January, the Vietnamese aggressors shelled many villages in various districts in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Battambang, and Kampot Provinces, killing or wounding many inhabitants and farm animals and destroying much of the people's property.

But the Vietnamese aggressors and their accomplices—the aggressive bandits—pretended to be the innocent by raising their voices to accuse the resistance forces of violating the Paris agreement.

Through the violations of the cease-fire prior to the signing of the Paris agreement and the events related to the Vietnamese aggressors' reinforcing their troops since 29 January 1992, people in general can see clearly that the Vietnamese aggressors are the ones who violated the cease-fire accord and Paris agreement.

The Vietnamese have committed aggression against Cambodia since the end of 1978. They have tried to avoid the signing of the agreement and the dispatch of the UN Peacekeeping Force to Cambodia. They have continued to oppose the agreement that they and the world community have signed.

Radio Claims SRV Forces Still in Phnom Penh

BK2901041092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] In the wake of numerous violent incidents in Phnom Penh that has caused insecurity there, and in particular following the violent abduction and execution of Mr. Tea Bounlong, a senior official of the Phnom Penh faction's Religious Affairs Ministry, outside the capital, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] issued a statement on 25 January. The samdech demands that the United Nations and the UN secretary general dispatch the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia to the country at the earliest date. By his statement, the samdech shows he wants Phnom Penh to become a safe zone and authentically neutral. Phnom Penh should be a neutral zone, otherwise the SNC will not able to function normally according to the Paris 23 October 1991 settlement and the people will not be free to live normally there.

The inhabitants and diplomats in Phnom Penh hold that Phnom Penh cannot become a neutral zone now because Vietnamese aggressor forces are still stationed in the city. As such, to transform Phnom Penh into a neutral zone, the UNTAC must be dispatched to Cambodia at the earliest date. This is to verify and ascertain the Vietnamese aggressor forces have completely withdrawn from Phnom Penh and the various provinces. Unless the Vietnamese forces are kept in check they will continue to commit offences at will, causing Phnom Penh to be permanently insecure, and thus further threatening the implementation of the Cambodian peace accords.

Khmer Rouge Accused of Endangering Peace Process

BK3101050792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 Jan 92

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "Those Who Create Obstacles Have to Bear the Responsibility for Ruining the Prospects of Peace in Cambodia"—date not given]

[Text] In insisting on their theory that it is necessary to continue the war against Vietnamese colonization, the Khmer Rouge Polpotists are trying to hurl the Cambodian situation into an awful quagmire. At the third Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting in Phnom Penh on 26 January, the Khmer Rouge Polpotist representative blatantly blocked it from issuing a communique that was fully endorsed by all SNC members. The communique to be issued was on the implementation of the cease-fire agreement, the nonexpansion of controlled territory, and the nonestablishment of the supreme national councils in villages, communes, districts, and provinces. This (?maneuver) sufficiently demonstrates that they have continued to apply that theory since the signing of the Paris peace accord, with no concern for the fate of the country or the supreme interests of Cambodians.

The Khmer Rouge Polpotists seriously violated the cease-fire recently, a few days prior to the arrival in Phnom Penh of His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN secretary general and head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia. They successively attacked in the most cruel and barbarous manner areas controlled by the State of Cambodia in Stoung District, Kompong Thom Province, causing death and injury to a number of our people and the utter destruction of their property. However, when H.E. Yasushi Akashi arrived, the Khmer Rouge Polpotists painstakingly exclaimed that Vietnam had worsened the provocation. Actually, this was only an evil stratagem. As a matter of fact, raising the Vietnamese issue was just foul play. They have pursued this line of action in order to breach the Paris accord, to expand their territory, and set up the so-called supreme national councils in villages, communes, districts, and provinces to replace the existing local state authorities. It is certain that they will continue with this ploy. This is why the Khmer Rouge representative straightaway rejected the issuance of a communique.

Since the signing of the accord, the State of Cambodia has always strived to patiently implement it. They have abided by the cease-fire; released prisoners of war and offenders; allowed for a multi-party system, press freedom, the freedom of expression; and so on. By all accounts, these are positive contributions to its implementation. All in all, we believe that if there is no peace during the transition prior to elections, the major obstacles to achieving national reunification and ending the war will continue to emerge. Somehow, those who create the obstructions will have to bear the full responsibility in the face of the nation and the motherland's history.

Refugees Informed of Assistance on Return

BK3101122492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 31 Jan 92

["Communique of the government of the State of Cambodia to the fraternal Cambodian refugees living in camps along the Cambodian-Thai border"—read by announcer]

[Text] Pursuant to the 21 November 1991 memorandum on the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from the Kingdom of Thailand signed by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], with the Royal Government of Thailand and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], the government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] would like to issue the following communique to the fraternal Cambodians who are currently living in camps along the Thai border:

1. The government's views: In aiming to quickly end the destructive war between our own compatriots and to begin to rebuild the country in order to improve our people's livelihood and take them out of poverty, the SOC Government has done everything toward achieving a peace agreement on Cambodia which was signed in Paris on 23 October 1991.

Following the signing of this agreement, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and wife returned to the motherland and were accorded a most warm welcome by the Cambodian People's Party, the SOC Government, and the Cambodian people. The government will warmly welcome the return of all brothers and sisters, and will not divide them into the people inside the country and the repatriated compatriots.

The government is well aware of the living conditions in the border camps where you are currently staying and wants you to return home in order to stay with our compatriots and work according to each individual's ability to contribute to national reconstruction.

2. The government's assistance: Based on the above views, the government wishes to inform [words indistinct] that it will make every effort to enable the reception of the brothers and sisters who wish to return to the motherland proceed smoothly in line with all points in the above-mentioned memorandum. It will also provide security (?for your life and property); help to provide facilities for your housing, work, study, and so forth; pay attention to [words indistinct]; and create favorable conditions for the search for your kin for family reunion.

3. The government's requests: For your own interests and for the positive result of your reception, the government would like to request [words indistinct] UNHCR; avoid returning by yourselves which will only be risky; thoroughly consider and choose your final residence based on its suitability and its concrete capabilities [words indistinct] build a new life as a good citizen of the motherland of Angkor.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 27 January 1992.

Red Cross Holds Meeting on Refugee Repatriation

BK0402071592 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0220 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 2—Cambodia counted 186,678 families of war refugees totaling 379,880 people in 1991.

According to a report of the Cambodia Red Cross Committee, only ten percent of the refugees have resettled in the reception centers, while the others have scattered in remote areas in the country.

The committee organized recently a conference here on refugee work in 1991 and the program for 1992 with the participation of representatives from provinces concerned.

The report said there are more [than] 1,950 families of war refugees [who] fled their homes in Stoung District, in the central province of Kompong Thom, due to the recent artillery attacks by the Khmer Rouge.

The two-day meeting was also attended by representatives of international organizations operating in Cambodia, especially the PADEK [expansion unknown].

The meeting called for all international agencies to take into account the coming repatriation of Cambodian refugees to their homeland, particularly the voluntary returnees.

Under the Paris peace accord, about 350,000 Cambodian refugees living in camps in Thailand would repatriate to Cambodia under the auspices of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and the cost of the repatriation is around 109 million dollars.

Police Extorting Money After Nightly Curfews

BK0202111792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 2 Feb 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 2 (AFP)—Police and soldiers taking advantage of the Cambodian capital's nightly curfews are holding up unsuspecting tourists and other foreigners for money and cigarettes.

The curfew, in effect from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., was imposed in December in order to control the after-effects of violent demonstrations against the government.

Foreigners—including diplomats, journalists, aid workers and United Nations officials—are exempted by simply carrying a pass.

But the passes have never been issued, and the Hotel Cambodiana advises tourists who ask at the front desk not to worry about the curfew.

At first the groups of police and soldiers guarding street corners in strategic parts of the city were rather timid, suggesting that foreigners out after curfew offer them some cigarettes.

But emboldened by their success, some of the security forces—especially those armed with AK-47s and appearing drunk late at night—are getting meaner.

"It was terrifying," said 28-year-old tourist Carolyn Libby, a New Yorker who works for Hong Kong television station ATV.

She recounted trying to return to the Hotel Cambodiana last week after curfew and being stopped by police and military.

Having had to bribe border officials on her land journey to Cambodia from Vietnam, Libby said she briefly considered having to hand over the 400 dollars she was carrying.

After keeping her for several minutes, "and after it became clear to them I wasn't going to budge, they let me go," Libby said.

The front desk at the Hotel Cambodiana had advised her that the curfew applied to Cambodians only.

Other tourists and foreigners who live in Phnom Penh recall similar scenarios, and tell of gunfire being fired into the air to get them to stop for inspection at intersections.

"They usually just ask for money and cigarettes," said Australian diplomat Lyndall Mclean, a resident here for more than three years who recently refused to give over five dollars demanded of her after curfew.

"I can see how being a tourist it could be fairly intimidating," she said.

A woman who could not be identified because she works at the U.N. Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) said a drunk policeman waving an AK-47 grabbed onto her car window, demanded cigarettes and wouldn't let go.

"I'm never going out alone at night again," she said.

Cambodians out after curfew without their passes—given to Defense Ministry employees and others with government connections—face a stiffer consequence.

"If you give them money they let you go, but if you don't have money you have to sleep the night on the streetcorner," said one young man who declined to be identified.

Committee for Psychological Problems To Be Formed

BK3002092792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] International organizations and three Cambodian parties have decided to set up a joint committee to help resolve psychological problems in Cambodia, particularly those among Cambodian women and children.

The decision to establish the committee was made at a meeting held under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Phnom Penh from 1730 to 1830 on 29 January.

Attending the meeting were the three Cambodian parties—the Khmer People's National Liberation Front represented by His Excellency [H.E.] Chum Chheang; the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia by Mr. Eng Roland; and the State of Cambodia side by Mess. Phi Thach and Mam Bunheng—and the delegates of the WHO, UNESCO, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Indonesia

Minister Pessimistic Over Oil Price Achievement

BK2901104692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0929 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 29 (OANA-ANTARA)—Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita predicted Wednesday Indonesia was likely to fail in achieving its oil price target which was set at 19 U.S. dollars per barrel in the 1991/92 state budget, but expressed optimism that foreign exchange revenue from the oil/gas sector is achievable.

"With the drop in the average price of oil on the world market to 16 U.S. dollars per barrel this month, Indonesia's reference price of 19 U.S. dollars per barrel is unlikely to be achieved," the minister told a hearing with the parliament.

But the decline in the price will not reduce receipt from the oil/gas sector because Indonesia will increase its oil and condensate production he added.

Ginanjar said that Indonesia's average oil price per barrel for the 1991/92 fiscal year is estimated at 18.5 U.S. dollars. This is based on the estimate that the average price of Indonesian oil per barrel in February and March is less than 17 dollars per barrel.

The minister said initially it was expected that the world oil price would increase in accordance with OPEC's benchmark estimate at 21 U.S. dollars per barrel in the first quarter of this year.

But in reality, the price fell to 16 dollar per barrel due to the less severe winter so that producer countries released their oil stock, causing oversupply.

Indonesia which produces about 1.4 million crude and condensate a day or about 532 million barrels yearly, cut its production this month by 25,000 barrels per day while Saudi Arabia is reported to cut its production by 100,000 barrels a day and Nigeria by 50,000 barrels.

The OPEC oil production cut this month is considered not yet enough to limit oil supply as Kuwait this year is expected to pump up oil based on its previous quota while Iraq is also believed to begin releasing oil supply to the world market.

In anticipation of oversupply as a result of the Kuwait and Iraq's oil supplies, OPEC oil ministers which are scheduled to meet in Geneva on February 12 will discuss oil production cut by about five per cent.

"We are not convinced whether a decision to cut oil production would be successful because either technically or politically, a reduction in oil production is difficult to be implemented," he added.

Referring to the reference price of 17 U.S. dollars per barrel as set at the 1991/92 draft state budget, the minister said it was based on the assumption of the oil demand and supply on the world market this year.

Government Releases 111 Suspected Aceh Members

BK3101114292 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 20 Jan 92 p 10

[Text] Jakarta (JP): The government released 111 members of a separatist movement in Ihokseumawe, North Aceh, Friday [17 Jan], ANTARA reported.

Aceh Territorial Military Commander Major General H.R. Pramono said the members have been screened and have pledged their loyalty to the Indonesian Government. The release, one in a series of similar moves taken by the government, is a manifestation of Indonesian political culture, which honors human rights, he said in a ceremony adding that it was not a political move.

"It is only fair to say that we need no lessons on how to maintain human rights," he said.

The commander urged other members of the Free Aceh Movement still hiding in the jungles to give themselves up and to rejoin their families.

He also urged society to receive the former members of the Security Disturbance Movement (GPK) in the spirit of unity to create "dynamic stability and security."

Army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel A. Mariyono told reporters that 735 members of the movement have been released so far.

Up until December last year, the Aceh district court had handed down verdicts to 24 rebel leaders, eight of them military officers, found guilty of subversion. The maximum penalty possible for subversion in Indonesia is death.

Mariyono said the rebels wanted to set up an Islamic state.

They were sentenced to between one and twenty years imprisonment.

Meanwhile, Medan district court sentenced a 44-year old man to 13 years in prison last week, for helping rebels run away from security officers.

Governor Ibrahim Hasan said recently that the government had allocated rupiah 700 billion for development in the province but there were still malcontents trying to spread rumors that the government had done nothing in Aceh.

Laos

Phoun Sipaseut Returns From Cambodia Visit 3 Feb

BK0402024192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, ended a three-day visit to the State of Cambodia and returned to Vientiane yesterday afternoon. The visit was in response to an invitation from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. It was the first visit to Cambodia by Phoun Sipaseut since the return to Phnom Penh capital by Prince Norodom Sihanouk on 14 November 1991, after 13 years of his staying abroad. The visit has constituted a significant milestone. It has paved the way for the increasing enhancement, promotion, and expansion of the traditional relations of friedship and fraternal solidarity between the peoples of Laos and Cambodia.

During the visit, in addition to holding an official meeting with Hor Namhong, foreign affairs minister of the State of Cambodia, Phoun Sipaseut called on various leaders of the State of Cambodia, including Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Hun Sen, and Chea Sim, as well as other personages of the State of Cambodia. He also visited a number of economic, cultural, and social establishments of the State of Cambodia.

DPRK's Kim Yong-Nam Holds 'Friendly' Talks

SK0202144092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] On 27 January, Laos Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon met Kim Yong-nam, our country's vice premier and foreign minister. Suite members of the foreign minister, our country's ambassador to Laos, the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and government secretary, the vice foreign minister, and the Lao ambassador to our country were on hand.

During the meeting, the prime minister asked the foreign minister to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He talked about the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, and pointed out that the policy for the reunification of the fatherland presented by the Workers Party of Korea and the republic's government is the most practical and just policy.

He said that the Lao party and Government actively support the Korean people's just struggle for the country's reunification.

Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

Markers Erected on Border With Burma

BK0302100292 Vientiane KPL in English 0856 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 3 (KPL)—The technical border committees of Laos and Myanmar [Burma], on January 29, jointly laid posts marking the border between the two countries at Siangkok village area of Long District, the northern Luang Namtha Province.

Witnessing the border post laying were the local administrations and peoples of the two countries, numbering 200.

Laos and Myanmar share a 230-km long common border. The technical border teams of the two sides have so far completed the first phase of their work, laying the border posts at a distance of 100 km.

Now they are continuing the rest work at different points [sentence as received]. In Luang Namtha Province alone where the common border between the two countries stretches for 140 km, the two sides have agreed to lay the border posts at five points: Siangkok, Meuang Sam, Donsai, Siang Kheng, and Sai.

Each post weighs 2.5 tons.

Article Celebrates LPA Founding Anniversary

BK0202091792 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 20 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Be Determined To Securely Defend and Preserve the People's Democratic Regime"]

[Text] Today—20 January 1992, the Lao People's Army [LPA] is 43 years old. We are celebrating this important day of historical significance at a time when the international situation is changing in a rather complicated manner and when the hostile forces are seizing this opportunity to undermine our side in all fields. Therefore, it is necessary that we step up the national defense and public security maintenance work to a new quality.

The resolution adopted at the Fifth Party Congress stated state national defense and public security maintenance work is the duty of the entire masses and constitutes a strategic task of the revolution in our country. The fulfillment of this work is aimed at safeguarding and preserving the new regime—the people's democratic regime—which has been chosen by the party and the multiethnic Lao people themselves since the beginning of their national liberation struggle against the colonialist- and neocolonialist-imperialists for peace, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Recent developments have indicated that the people's democratic regime has been put under the safeguarding of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. This event clearly reaffirms the determination of our entire party, army, and masses to defend the people's democratic regime in our country.

In 1991 as well in the past 16 years, the party's policy on this issue has been implemented and put into practice in all spheres of work from the center down to the grass-roots level. In the process, our multiethnic people have managed to win one victory after another and to accomplish many great achievements in various fields in the tasks of national defense and national construction, thereby basically bringing political tranquility and social order to the country. First of all, we have dispatched key cadres from each level and each service to work at the grass-roots organizations and to associate with grass-roots people in order to educate local cadres, state employees, soldiers, policemen, students, intellectuals, learned persons, and multiethnic people to appreciate and correctly understand the correct and just lines and policies of our party and state and to clearly understand the designs of the hostile forces in trying to effect a peaceful change in our country. Through this process, we have created numerous important fundamental factors for maintaining political tranquillity and social order in our country. As a result, the people's democratic regime at the grass-roots level has been gradually upgraded and built in the political, ideological, specialized, and organizational fields, thus enabling the administrations at all levels to gradually know how to perform their respective roles, that is: by the people, from the people, and for the people. The level of political awareness among the multiethnic people has also been elevated to another degree, encouraging them to further hold aloft a sense of patriotism and their love of the new regime and to take the initiative in defending and building the country. All this is the obtrusive victory of the entire party, army, and masses. This victory has tremendously contributed to the existence and development of the new regime—the people's democratic regime. Such fine tradition of our nation must be incessantly safeguarded, preserved, and developed.

Nonetheless, in the year 1992, the forces hostile to our side are not expected to abandon their dark designs against the LPDR. They will still continue pursuing a policy of trying to impose changes by peaceful means in order to incite disturbances in various forms and methods with a view to creating disorder and chaos in our society as they have done in many other countries.

Because of the new complicated, changing world situation, national defense and public security maintenance work must play a very vital role. That is why the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau has adopted a number of resolutions specifically for directing national defense and public security maintenance work. Each of these resolutions clearly says: National defense and public maintenance work plays a vital forefront role and is related to all spheres of social work. All movements in the socioeconomic construction must be linked to the work in maintaining social tranquility and public order. Only by doing this will our country enjoy political tranquillity and stability. To achieve this goal, the party and command committees at all levels and in all services, units, enterprises, and organizations must step up their respective leadership and supervision roles and pay close attention to guiding public security maintenance work at the grass-roots level in their respective services. First of all, they must step up the supervision of the movements in turning to and gradually building the grassroots to become firmer and in educating the multiethnic people to cherish and uphold the country and the new regime, to become alert in participating in public security maintenance work in their respective localities, and to determinedly and drastically resolve all phenomena which are detrimental to social tranquility and order in accordance with the lines, policies, and laws of the country.

To effectively execute public security and social order maintenance work, we must pay close attention to the management of domicile registration work and the work of improving the living conditions of cadres, state employees, soldiers, policemen, and multiethnic people to help them create their faith toward the party and the people's democratic regime and to resist all tendencies and phenomena which may lead them into lacking a sense of vigilance toward the enemies. We must take the initiative in translating into reality the party's policy of encouraging the entire masses to carry out public security maintainance work to ensure political tranquility and stability for our country and to make the new regime—the people's democratic regime—last forever.

Philippines

Aquino Asks U.S. To Reconsider Aid Reduction

HK0402015392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The government will ask the United States to reconsider its decision to reduce by 50 percent its share in the Philippine Assistance Program, or Multilateral Aid Initiative, for the year 1993. President Aquino said that as much as the Philippines sympathizes with the fact that the European Community and the U.S. economies face problems, the United States and the rest of the world should be aware of the importance of maintaining the level of aid granted to the Philippines.

Earlier, the United States had announced it would reduce by half aid to the Philippines because of its obligations to other countries.

Spokesman Says Japan Possible PAP Donor

HK0402063992 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III said the government should not rely solely on the United States for its aid plan. According to Gomez, Japan and other countries could be donors for the Philippine Aid Plan [PAP]. Gomez admitted that the United States can not be forced to maintain the original aid it was giving to the country. Apart from its economic problem, the United

States was not impressed with the outcome of the military bases treaty. Gomez said the government must face the reality that the United States is bracing for its coming elections for which its government would need funds.

Senate Committee Approves Bases Conversion Bill

HK0402031992 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 4 Feb 92 pp 1, 5

[By Cris V. Paraso]

[Text] The conference committee on the Administration-certified Baselands Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) approved yesterday a reconciled measure which essentially adopted the Senate's version during a marathon weekend meeting lasting until 1 a.m.

The bicameral committee report provides for autonomous special economic zones for Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base and their surrounding areas.

In addition, the President will also be empowered to declare as special economic zones the areas of Wallace Air Station in San Fernando, La Union, John Hay Air Station in Baguio City and the municipalities of Hermosa, Morong and Dinalupihan in Bataan and Castillejos in Zambales.

The BCDA will simply be an oversight body over the special economic zones, especially for the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) which will be a separate entity with a free trade and free port status.

The SBMA will be headed by the Mayor of Olongapo City for the first year and a professional manager will be appointed by the President for the succeeding years.

The authority will have a 15-man board with representation from the different sectors of base workers, foreign and domestic investors and affected local government units.

It will implement the zone's privileges to include liberalized banking and tax- and duty-free transactions, among others. In addition, a resident status will be given to foreign entities which would invest not less than $250,000 in a business within the zone.

The BCDA, whose capitalization was increased to P [Philippine peso] 100 billion from P50 billion, will oversee the sale and transfer of portions of military camps in Metro Manila.

Fifty percent of the proceeds from the sale will be used for the conversion of reverted American facilities into commercial use, while 30

will go to the Armed Forces' self-reliance program, housing schemes and medicial facilities, among others. The rest will be apportioned by the House of Representatives to other expenditure items.

Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani, foreign relations committee chairperson, Senate panel head and principal author of the BCDA bill, said the measure's passage "will fill the vacuum during this time of our relationship with the United States which is uncertain and at a fairly low level."

She noted that the bill will provide Government the priorities and special responsibilities, while the U.S. will be guided as to what movable equipment it would leave in the base.

Air Services With Japan Expanded

HK0302101292 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 3 Feb 92 pp 1, 24

[Text] Tokyo—Transportation and Communications Secretary Pete Nicomedes Prado, chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), has signed a memorandum of agreement in representation of the Philippines with Japan expanding the coverage of the air services accord of 1970.

The new agreement, which was signed in the Japanese ministry of transport here late last week, provides for additional and new frequencies in air services between the two countries and their key cities and other points beyond.

After signing the agreement, Prado said that the expanded coverage would boost the country's economic recovery "in the airline and tourism industries."

Prado described the agreement as "unprecedented" and a "milestone" because Japan "has always been a prime source of investment and technology for our country."

Airline and travel executives lauded Prado and the members of the Philippine delegation for their record-breaking feat in directing the bilateral talks to success for the country.

The private sector, especially those in aviation and tourism business, cited the liberalization policy of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) having again triumphed in Prado's exemplary leadership.

The salient provisions of the agreement are:

"The designated airline or airlines of the Republic of the Philippines will be allowed to operate up to twenty-four (24), weekly scheduled round trip frequencies in terms of DC-8/B707/B727 aircraft between points in the Philipines and Japan with full traffic rights provided that the designated airline or airlines of the Philippines shall not be permitted to operate more than two (2) weekly frequencies with any type of aircraft from points in the Philippines to and from Fukuoka within the above twenty-four (24) weekly scheduled round trip frequencies in terms of DC-3/B070/B727 aircraft.

"The designated airline or airlines of Japan will be allowed to operate up to twenty four (24) weekly scheduled round trip frequencies in terms of DC-8/B707/B727 aircraft between points in Japan and Manila via and intermediate points specified in the schedule to the Agreement with full traffic rights provided that the designated airline or airlines of Japan shall not exercise local traffic rights between Hong Kong and Manila in both directions and that the weekly scheduled round trip frequencies via Taipei in terms of DC-8/B707/B727 aircraft shall be limited to three (3).

"In addition to the above twenty-four (24) frequencies, the designated airline or airlines of each country will be allowed to operate up to the (10) weekly scheduled round trip frequencies in terms of DC-8/B707/B727 aircraft when the Kansai International Airport is opened to international air services.

"Within the frequency entitlements, the designated airline or airlines of either country will be allowed to operate in total up to six (6) weekly scheduled round trip frequencies in terms of DC- 8/B707/B727 aircraft beyond the territory of the other country to any point or points specified in the schedule to the Agreement with traffic rights.

"The routes to be operated in both directions by the designated airline or airlines of the Republic of the Philippines, are: points, in the Philippines—Fukuoka—Osaka—Tokyo—Honolulu—San Franciso. One point in Canada to be specified later. Any flights operating to and from the one point in Canada shall make a scheduled stop at San Francisco. The designated airline or airlines of the Philippines may operate the agreed services to Osaka when the Kansai International Airport is opened to international air services. All flights to and from Fukuoka and/or Osaka may not be operated to any beyond point. Fukuoka, Osaka and or Tokyo may not be combined on the same flight.

Aquino Seeks Kabisig Movement Support for Ramos

HK0302123892 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino will try to persuade members of the Kabisig [Arm-to-Arm] Movement to support former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos. This is to ensure Ramos' victory in the coming May polls. The president believes that the support of the Kabisig Movement and other non-government organizations for Ramos' People's Power Party would contribute greatly to the former defense secretary's candidacy.

In line with this, Mrs. Aquino also said that she is now discussing with her advisers the possibility of establishing a 'grand coalition' that would support Ramos' presidential bid in the coming 11 May elections.

Aquino: Imelda 'No Match' for Other Candidates

HK0302124092 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino said that former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos is no match [preceding two words in English] compared to the country's other presidential candidates. She also added that the Filipinos are not that forgetful; thus, she is confident that the former first lady, an instrument to the Filipinos' sufferings under the Marcos regime, will not be elected to office.

The chief executive also warned that if Mrs. Marcos is again placed into power, the Philippines would revert to dictatorial rule.

Abadia Says Rebel Candidates Cannot Campaign

HK0302123992 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Detained rebel soldiers may run in the coming elections, but they will not be allowed to campaign. This was stressed by General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, in line with the decision by several military rebel leaders to run in the coming elections in their respective voting places.

Abadia also warned military rebels who are planning to surface from hiding to run in the coming elections that they would be arrested.

Abadia again announced that the military will remain neutral in the coming polls.

Enrile Faction Teams Up With Mitra Party

HK0402025892 Quezon City MALAYA in English 4 Feb 92 pp 1, 6

[By Romy Tangbawan and Didi Doloricon; italicized passages published in Tagalog]]

[Text] Sen Juan Ponce Enrile's faction of the Nacionalista Party (NP) yesterday joined forces with the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] of Speaker Ramon Mitra.

The NP-Enrile faction is assured of two to three slots in a senatorial coalition ticket with Mitra's Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), and the Union for Progress (UP) of Marcelo Feran, Mitra's running mate.

Leaders of the LDP and the NP-Enrile wing said a draft agreement formalizing the coalition will be signed in the next few days.

"It's a done thing," Rep Miguel Romero (LDP, Negros Oriental) said.

But Rep Hernando Perez (LDP)Blas F. Ople may make it to the final line-up.

Romero said the most probable NP coalition bets are lawyer Renato Cayelano, former senator Rene Espina and Ople.

Rep Salvador Escudero III (NP, Sorsogon) belittled the coalition and predicted that majority of Nacionalistas identified with Enrile will join Cojuangco. "*Only those* *running in the elections will join* LDP, *but* the rest I'm sure will go to Danding," he said. "*Some of them have connections* with those working for Danding's victory. *It will be difficult for them to extend the* alignment *to the* regional level," he added.

House Majority Floor Leader Francisco Sumulong yesterday also predicted many congressmen will leave the LDP and head for the Ramos camp.

"Many LDP members have not been properly consulted on the coalition with the NP and these leaders will soon be joining the EDSA [Epifanio De Los Santos Avenue]-LDP," he said.

Enrile cited his long-standing ties with Mitra to unjustify the merger. "... Monching (Mitra) is a long-time friend of mine and I believe he can be a good president of the Republic," he said.

Perez yesterday identified the coalition's likely senatorial candidates as reelectionists Jose Lina, Mamintal Tamano, Agapito Aquino, Alberto Romulo, Heherson Alvarez, Santanian Rasul, Edgardo Angara, Orlando Mercado, Emesto Herrera, Ernesto Maceda, and party president Neptali Gonzales; Reps Raul Roco (Camarines Sur), Freddie Webb (Paranaque), Carlos Padilla (Nueva Vizcaya), Rep Rodrigo Gutang (North Cotabato) Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, wife of LDP secretary general Jose Cojuangco, and former executive secretary Joker Arroyo; Quezon City Vice Mayor Vicente "Tito" Sotto, actor Ramon Revilla, Labor Secretary Ruben Torres, and Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III, and Gen (ret.) Rodolfo Biazon.

Romero said the LDP is also reserving a slot for Sen John Osmena in an apparent attempt to lure him away from Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Jr. Osmena had announced that he will run as Cojuangco's vice president.

Salonga, Pimentel File Certificate of Candidacy

HK0402063592 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Senators Jovito Salonga and Aquilino Pimentel have formally filed their certificate of candidacy. In a report by DZMM Radio Patrol, the two senators arrived at the Commission on Elections at the same time this morning to register as the official candidates of the coalition Liberal Party-Pilipino Democratic Party-Nation's Strength. Salonga is the presidential candidate and Pimentel his vice president.

Rebel Leader, Aide Slain in Agusan del Sur

HK0402101692 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] A top New People's Army [NPA] official in Agusan del Sur and his aide were killed, while another NPA rebel was captured in a twenty-minute encounter between the Philippine National Police's Agusan del Sur Provincial Command and the NPA Command's Espada [Sword] Force. The slain NPA leader was identified as Commander Buan; while the captured rebel was identified as Montano Egas, alias Comrade Victor. The encounter occurred in the barangays of New Visayas and Salvacion in the town of Trento.

Four High Ranking NPA Members Arrested

HK0402064192 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Four high-ranking members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] operating in Central Luzon have been arrested by a joint police and military force. Here is Jim Beleasano with the details:

[Begin recording] Pantaleon Dumlao Jr., the regional director and chief superintendent, identified the communist rebels as David Tabangay, alias Marag Mabi; Rudy Concepcion, alias Fernan and Juling; Bernardo Marido, alias Mon; and Maritess Jaro, alias Erly. Dumlao said the arrest was the result of Operation Plan Red Crow, which is aimed at destroying the CPP-NPA military and political machinery in Central Luzon. Tabangay, who carries an 80,000 peso cash reward, was arrested along with Marido in Project 8, Quezon City on 2 February. Concepcion, who has a reward of 40,000 pesos, was arrested with Jaro in Bocaue, Bulacan, yesterday afternoon. Confiscated from the rebels were a .30 caliber revolver, an M-16 rifle, two fragmentation grenades, two .38 revolvers, and subversive documents. The rebels are now detained in Camp Olivas, Pampanga, while appropriate charges are being prepared. [end recording]

60 Communist Rebels Killed in Marag Valley

HK0402100592 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By Ronald Estella of DZXL Unit No. 20]

[Text] Almost 60 New People's Army [NPA] rebels were killed in the past week in several encounters in Conner, Kalinga-Apayao. The casualties included a NPA commander who was identified as Juanito Timbreza, alias Commander Johnny, who had a 70,000 Philippine peso reward on his head. The clashes were led by elements of the 5th Philippine Army Division, headed by Brigadier General Edgardo Batenga.

The military is now combing the forests of Marag Valley to flush out communist rebels still hiding in the area and free the area from communist influence.

In addition to the 60 rebels killed, General Batenga also reported that almost 63 regular members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA were forced to surrender.

Three Communist Rebels Killed in Davao del Sur

HK0302130392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 3 Feb 92

[By Rodney Jaleco of DZRH unit no.1]

[Text] Three New People's Army [NPA] rebels were killed in a battle that was able to foil an attempt by the NPA to interfere in the registration of new voters in one of the towns in Davao del Sur.

A report filed with Major General Arturo Enrile, Philippine Army chief, indicated that the 37th Infantry Battalion's Charlie Company was conducting a security patrol check when it encountered 80 NPA rebels, led by Loreto Mondabon, alias Commander Nadi, near Barangay Luay, Davao del Sur. The soldiers immediately called for reinforcement, where upon two MG-520 Helicopter gunships immediately arrived, heralding the beginning of a two-hour battle that resulted in the death of three communist rebels.

The soldiers were able to retrieve during mop-up operations five shells of a 40 mm mortar which the rebels were not able to use.

Coast Guard Seizes Ammunition Shipment in Mindanao

HK0402031292 Quezon City MALAYA in English 4 Feb 92 pp 1, 6

[By Jimmy Perez]

[Text] Cmdr. Virgilio Viray, Coast Guard Manila District chief, yesterday said an attempt was made last week to ship a large quantity of blasting caps and ammunition to southern provinces.

A Coast Guard patrol team intercepted the cargo which was about to be loaded on the south-bound M/V Zamboanga. The vessel's destination was Zamboanga city.

Lt. Cmdr. Amado Samante, Coast Guard spokesman, said the cargo consisted of 60,000 pieces of blasting caps and close to 4,000 rounds for M-60 and M-16 firearms.

The cargo was intercepted a day after Philippines National Police [PNP] authorities bared the existence of several private armies in the Southern provinces and involvement of local politicians in gun- running activities in Central Mindanao.

Previous elections in several areas in Central Mindanao failed, the PNP said, due to the presence of armed groups in polling precincts.

Samante said the persons who prepared papers for the shipment of the cargo have been invited for questioning to determine its ownership. He refused to reveal their identities.

The cargo was found at the gate of Pier 14 by a Coast Guard team which was earlier ordered to check the area following reports of a smuggling attempt.

Peace Talks Offered to Southern Tagalog Rebels

HK0402100992 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Secretary Cesar Sarino of the Department of Local Government offered to hold peace talks with rebel terrorists in the Southern Tagalog region headed by Gregorio Rosal, alias Comrade Roger.

Sarino, who is also the head of the National Reconciliation and Development Council, said that it is appropriate for Comrade Roger and other New People's Army [NPA] to come forward in the name of peace and discuss the future and welfare of the people in the region. Sarino challenged Comrade Roger to follow the example of former NPA Chief Bernabe Buscayno, alias Commander Dante, who is now helping the government in uplifting the lives of people in Central Luzon, and who is also the organizer of a cooperative movement in Capas, Tarlac, which farmers are now greatly benefiting from.

Sarino gave assurances of the safety of Comrade Roger and his men once they return to the government's fold. He also said that they will be receiving all of the benefits promised under the government's reconciliation program.

'Thousands' Rally Over Mindanao Power Rate Hikes

HK0402032892 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 4 Feb 92 pp 1, 8

[Text] Thousands of workers yesterday walked out of their jobs and barricaded major thoroughfares in at least five areas in Mindanao to protest the power rate increase and frequent brownouts.

Erasto Librado, vice president of the Kilusang Mayo Uno [KMU-1 May Movement] for Mindanao, said 95 percent of public transport was crippled in the cities of Davao, Iligan and General Santos and the towns of Koronadal and Marbel in South Cotabato and Kidapawan in North Cotabato.

Police held 10 workers in Davao City for allegedly harassing jeepney drivers who wanted to ply their routes. But KMU officials said the protesters were only distributing protest leaflets during a mass rally. They were later released to the custody of their lawyer.

Rally organizers in General Santos City also said two policemen in plainclothes accosted a group of protesters along the national highway and took away the driver's license of one of the participating drivers. They also reportedly confiscated the camera of another protester.

No other untoward incident was reported.

Zamboanga City was not affected by the strike. The city government has won its petition to resume 24-hour service to city consumers.

More strikes are expected to be staged today in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Dipolog, and Pagadian.

North and southbound interprovincial bus companies also suspended their operations, stranding passengers in various provinces in Region 11 and 12.

Private and public schools called off classes, although the Department of Education, Culture and Sports did not officially suspend classes.

At 7 last night, protesters held a 20-minute voluntary blackout and noise barrage.

"With this "welga ng bayan [national strike]," we are sure we have made an impact on Malacanang," Librado said.

KMU officials said around 12,000 workers walked out of their jobs in 47 industrial firms and plantations in Davao City and Davao del Norte.

Banks closed two hours earlier at 1 p.m.

But Lt Col Nelson Estares, Metrodiscom [Metro District Command] chief, played down the strike's impact in the city. "It looked like a non-event because the stores, banks and other establishments were open and private vehicles were running. Everything appeared normal," he said.

In Iligan City, police said only three percent of public transport was able to operate.

Workers in three big firms—Iligan Cement, Elias Corp and Iligan Merg Arrastre and Stevedoring Co—walked out of their jobs and joined the protest rallies in several locations in the city, police said.

The protest rallies are expected to continue today.

Government offices and banks remained open, however, police said.

In General Santos, some 10,000 protesters—mostly workers from the Santa Monica Canning Corp, Dole Philippines and Checkered Farms—massed in front of the Napocor [National Power Corporation, NPC] office. Around 90 percent of public transport in the city grounded to a halt.

In South Cotabato, around 10,000 workers and farmers from the neighboring towns of Koronadal and Marbel joined the strike while protesters in Kidapawan formed a human barricade along the national highway linking the cities of Davao and Cotabato.

The workers and members of other cause-oriented groups launched the welgang bayan to protest the power rate increase and frequent brownouts in the region.

The National Power Corp raised electric rates to 15 centavos per kilowatt hour last Jan 5. President Aquino has said the next round of rate adjustment, another 7 centavos per kwh increase, will push through as scheduled tomorrow.

The NPC has also effected 15-20 hours of power outages in the region due to the critical water level of Lake Lanao, which supplies most of the island's hydroelectric needs.

Drilon Says Marcos' Body Returned To Laoag Only

HK0402110492 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 4 Feb 92

[By Rowena Papasin from Malacanang]

[Text] The government will now allow the return of the body of former President Marcos to the country before the election is concluded. This was hinted by Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon who asserted that the government's policy to allow the return of Marcos' corpse within the term of the Aquino administration still stands. According to Drilon, the body of the former president can be brought home if his family provides a written commitment that it will take him straight to Laoag City where he will be given a nine-day wake before burial. Drilon explained this is in compliance with President Aquino's policy, following her meeting with the Northern Luzon Alliance, saying she will allow the return of Marcos' remains on condition that it does not stop in Metro Manila and is taken straight to Laoag City. Drilon said, however, that if the Marcoses continue to reject this policy, they have to wait until President Aquino decides to allow the body's return. Drilon hinted that this may occur after the May election:

[Begin recording in English] [Drilon] As far as this matter is concerned, the policy is to allow the return of the body within the term of this administration, and in fact, the president has made a policy decision that if the Marcoses will agree that the body will be flown to Laoag and buried there, the body can come back at anytime. That was the suggestion of the Northern Alliance, which in fact the president accepted.

[Papasin] Can the body be returned before the elections?

[Drilon] If there is a firm commitment that the body will be flown back to Laoag and buried there, they can have a wake for nine days, he can return anytime.

[Papasin] What if there is no firm commitment after the election?

[Drilon] If there is no firm commitment then, the policy stands.

[Papasin] When, after the election, can he be returned?

[Drilon] Within the term of this administration. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Drilon has shrugged off Imelda Marcos' confession that her wealth came from the Yamashita treasure. According to Drilon, this is an old wives' tale which Mrs. Marcos wants the Filipinos to believe in. Drilon also discounted speculation that the Yamashita gold is buried in Fort Santiago.

Thailand

New Constitution Officially Promulgated

BK3101070792 Bangkok ROYAL GAZETTE in Thai No 108 Special Edition 9 Dec 91 pp 1-59

[Text] **Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand**

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet.

Given on 9 December 1991, being the 46th year of the present reign.

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has given the instruction to make the following announcement. The National Legislative Assembly [NLA] has reported that, since King Rama VII presented the Constitution of the Kingdom of Siam in 1932, several changes had been made and new constitutions had been promulgated for suitability and compatibility to the changed situations. All those constitutions carried the same essence in their adherence to the principle of a democratic administrative system with the king as head of state who exercised legislative power through parliament, executive power through the cabinet, and judicial power through the court. The only variance had been the status of the National Assembly and relationship between the legislative and executive powers to suit the national situation at a particular time. This clearly demonstrates the Thai people's faith in the democratic administrative system with the king as head of state, as determined by King Rama VII who gave his administrative power to the people. The adherence to the democratic administrative system with the king as head of state has continued until today. The interim charter of 1991 also contained this determination and assigned the NLA to draft the Constitution.

The NLA had appointed a commission to draft the Constitution. The draft Constitution was then considered by the NLA in three readings in accordance with the charter of 1991. In the first reading, the NLA voted to accept the draft Constitution for consideration and appointed a commission to consider the draft Constitution. After the commission completed its work, the draft constitution was resubmitted to the NLA for consideration in the second and third readings.

Every step of consideration of the draft Constitution adhered to King Rama VII's determination when he gave his administrative power to the Thai people. It also adheres basically to the desire and faith of the Thai people in the democratic administrative system, in addition to listening to the opinions of the people and of various groups, in studying previous constitutions to select stipulations deemed to be suitable in the preparation of this Constitution to achieve the mutual goal of the Thai people in preserving national independence and security and religion; in upholding the king as head of state and center of the nation; in adhering to the democratic system with the King as head of state as the direction for national administration; in recognizing and safeguarding the people's rights and freedom; and in jointly creating justice, prosperity, and happiness for all people.

After thoroughly considering the draft Constitution and taking into account the national situation, the NLA has resolved to submit the draft Constitution to the King for his signature for promulgation as the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand.

After thoroughly considering the draft Constitution, the King has deemed it appropriate to approve the resolution of the NLA.

Therefore, he has ordered that this Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand replaces the Constitution of 1991, dated 1 March 1991, from the date of this announcement.

May the Thai people unite to obey and safeguard this Constitution in order to maintain the democratic system and their sovereign power which will create and bring happiness, prosperity, and honor to the people throughout the nation as the king wishes.

Chapter 1: General Provisions

Article 1. Thailand is a kingdom, one and indivisible.

Article 2. Thailand adopts a democratic form of government with the King as head of the kingdom.

Article 3. The sovereign power emanates from the Thai people. The King who is the head of state exercises the power through the parliament, cabinet, and court in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Article 4. The Thai people are equally entitled to the protection of the Constitution regardless of their origin of birth or religion.

Article 5. Provisions of any law which are in conflict or contradictory to this Constitution are void.

Chapter 2: The King

Article 6. The King is sacred and inviolable.

No person may bring action against or sue the King in any manner.

Article 7. The King professes the Buddhist faith and is the upholder of religions.

Article 8. The King holds the title of chief of the Thai Armed Forces.

Article 9. It is the King's prerogative to create titles and confer royal decorations.

Article 10. The King selects and appoints qualified persons to form a Privy Council, with a president and not more than eighteen privy councillors.

The Privy Council has the duty of advising the King upon royal command on all matters pertaining to royal functions and has other duties as provided for in this constitution.

Article 11. The selection, appointment, and removal of privy councillors shall be at the King's pleasure.

The royal command appointing or removing the president of the Privy Council is to be countersigned by the president of the National Assembly.

The royal command appointing or removing other privy councillors is to be countersigned by the president of the Privy Council.

Article 12. A privy councillor shall not be a member of the Constitutional Tribunal, Senate, House of Representatives, a permanent government official, officer of a state enterprise, member or officer of a political party, nor shall he express active sympathy for any political party.

Article 13. Before taking office, a privy councillor shall take the following oath before the King:

"I (name), do solemnly declare that I will be faithful and loyal to His Majesty the King, and I will perform my duties with honesty in the interests of the country and of the people, and will preserve and observe the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand in every respect."

Article 14. A privy councillor vacates his office by death, resignation, or by royal command.

Article 15. The appointment and removal of officials of the Royal Household and of the chief aide-de-camp shall be at the King's pleasure.

Article 16. Whenever he is not in residence in the Kingdom, or whenever for any reason he is unable to exercise his functions, the King shall appoint a person to be the regent. The appointment shall be countersigned by the president of the National Assembly.

Article 17. In the case where the King has not appointed a regent under Article 16, or in the case he could not appoint a regent because he has not become of age or for any other reasons, the Privy Council shall submit the name of a person suitable to hold that office to the National Assembly for its approval. Upon the National Assembly's approval, the president of the National Assembly shall, by a notification made in the name of the King, appoint such a person to be the regent.

The Senate would act on behalf of the parliament under paragraph 1 if it was during the expiration or dissolution of the House of Representatives.

Article 18. Pending the appointment of a regent under Article 16 or Article 17, the president of the Privy Council shall temporarily act as regent.

If the regent appointed under Article 16 or Article 17 is unable to perform his functions, the president of the Privy Council shall act in his place temporarily.

While being the regent under paragraph one, or acting in place of the regent under paragraph two, the president of the Privy Council shall not exercise his function as president of the Privy Council. In such a case, the Privy Council shall elect one of its members to be its temporary president.

Article 19. Before taking office, the Regent appointed under Article 16 or Article 17 shall make the following declaration before the National Assembly:

"I (name), do solemnly declare that I will be faithful and loyal to His Majesty the King (name of the reigning King), and will perform my duties with honesty in the interests of the country and the people, and will uphold and observe the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand in every respect."

Article 20. Under Article 21, succession to the throne shall be in accordance with the Palace Law on Succession B.E. 2467 [A.D. 1924].

Amendment to the Palace Law on Succession B.E. 2467 can be made by the King only. The King can have the Privy Council draw up an amendment to the law according to whatever he may wish, and, upon his approval, the King shall affix his signature on the amendment. The president of the Privy Council shall report to the president of the National Assembly on the change so that the National Assembly shall be informed. The amendment shall be countersigned by the National Assembly president and shall be law after an announcement in the Royal Gazette.

Article 21. Should there be a vacancy to the throne and the King has appointed an heir to the throne in accordance with the Palace Law on Succession B.E. 2467, the Cabinet shall inform the National Assembly president so that the National Assembly can be convened for acknowledgement. The president of the National Assembly shall invite the heir to assume the throne, and shall make the notification thereof to the public.

Should there be a vacancy to the throne and the King has not appointed an heir under paragraph one, the Privy Council shall, under Article 20, propose an heir to the Cabinet, which will forward the proposal to the National Assembly for approval. In this connection, the proposal for a princess could also be an option. Upon approval from the National Assembly, the president of the National Assembly shall invite the heir to take the throne, and shall make the notification thereof to the public.

In the absence of the House of Representatives, either by dissolution or by termination of office, the Senate shall act in the name of the parliament in acknowledging under paragraph one or approval under paragraph two.

Article 22. Pending the notification of the succession under Article 21, the president of the Privy Council shall be temporary regent. If the throne is vacant during the time a regent has been appointed under Article 16 or Article 17, or that the president of the Privy Council has been regent under Article 18, paragraph one, the regent, whoever he may be, shall continue his regency until notification of the successor to the throne has been made.

In the case where the regent, who has been so appointed and who continues his regency under paragraph two is unable to perform his duties, the president of the Privy Council shall act temporarily in the place of regent.

In the case where the regent appointed under paragraph one cannot perform his duty, the president of the Privy Council shall act as a regent temporarily.

In the case where the president of the Privy Council acts as a regent under paragraph one, or a temporary regent under paragraph two, the provision of Article 18, paragraph three, shall apply.

Article 23. In the case where the Privy Council shall have to perform its duty under Article 17, or Article 21 paragraph two, or in the case where the president of the Privy Council shall have to perform his duty under Article 18 paragraph one or paragraph two, or Article 22 paragraph two and in the case of an absence of the president of the Privy Council, or in the case of disability of the president of the Privy Council, members of the Privy Council shall elect a councillor to act as president of the Privy Council, or to carry out functions, under Article 18 paragraph one or paragraph two, or Article 22 paragraph three, according to the case.

Chapter 3: Rights and Liberties of the Thai People

Article 24. All persons shall have the rights and freedom under the provisions of the Constitution.

Article 25. All persons are equal before the law and are equally entitled to the protection of the law.

Article 26. All persons are entitled to political rights.

Political rights shall be exercised under the provisions of the law.

Article 27. Every person shall have complete freedom to profess any religion, any religious sect or religious creed, and to conduct the practice of worship in accordance with his own belief, provided that it is not contrary to his civic duties, public order, or good morals.

In exercising the freedom as mentioned in paragraph one, every person shall be protected against any act of the State which would deprive him of his rights or be detrimental to his due benefits, on the grounds of his profession of a religion, a religious sect or religious creed, or his conduct of a practice of worship different from others.

Article 28. No person shall be subject to a criminal punishment unless he has committed an act which the law in force at the time makes an offence, and the punishment to be inflicted on such person shall not be heavier than that provided by the law in force at the time of its commission.

Article 29. In a criminal case, the alleged offender or the accused shall be presumed innocent first.

Article 30. Every person enjoys personal liberty.

No arrest, detention, or search of a person, under any circumstances, may be made except by virtue of law.

Article 31. In the case where the alleged offender or the accused is poor and has no money to acquire counsel by a lawyer, he is entitled to assistance from the State as provided by law.

Article 32. If a person serves a criminal punishment as a result of a final judgment, and upon any retrial there is a judgment that such person did not commit an offence, he shall be entitled to compensation in accordance with the conditions and procedures as provided by law.

Article 33. No person may be recruited for forced labor unless it is provided by virtue of the provisions of law particularly enacted for the purpose of averting imminent public calamity, or by virtue of the provisions of law when the country is at war or in a state of war, or during the time that a state of emergency or martial law is declared.

Article 34. Every person is entitled to freedom in his household.

The right of persons to peaceful habitation and possession of their dwellings is guaranteed. Entry into a dwelling without the consent of the owners, or a search, may be made only by virtue of the provisions of law.

Article 35. The right of private property is guaranteed. The extent and limitation of such right shall be determined by law.

Succession in inheritance is guaranteed. The right of a person to inherit shall be in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 36. Expropriation of immovable property may be effected only by virtue of the provisions of law particularly enacted for the purpose of public utility, direct defense of the country, exploitation of national resources, city planning, or for agricultural or industrial development, for land reforms, or for other interests of the public. Just compensation must be paid to owners thereof as well as persons entitled thereto who have suffered damage by such expropriation, as specified in the law.

Determination of compensation under paragraph one must be fair and shall be based on consideration covering the current price, the acquisition, the condition and location of the immovable property, and the damage done to the owners of the property expropriated.

The law enacted for an expropriation of immovable property must specify the purpose for the expropriation as well as the timing to take over the property for use. If the property expropriated is not used according to the date specified, it must be returned to the owner or his successor, unless there is a law specifying that it will be used for other purposes under paragraph one.

Redemption of an expropriated property to the original owner or his successor under paragraph 3 must be made in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 37. All persons enjoy freedom of speech, writing, printing, publication, and other forms of communication.

Restrictions on such freedoms may be made only by virtue of the provisions of law particularly enacted for maintaining national security, safeguarding the right, freedom, honor, or reputation of others, or maintaining public order or good morals, or protecting the public against physical or mental degeneration.

Only Thai nationals can own newspapers or other forms of mass media in accordance with the conditions stipulated by law.

Financial support or support in other forms to a private newspaper shall not be given by the State.

Article 38. All persons enjoy freedom of education provided that it does not contradict civic duties under the constitution and the laws on compulsory education and the organization of educational institutions.

Article 39. All persons enjoy the freedom to assemble peacefully without weapons.

Restriction of such freedom may be made only by virtue of the provisions of law concerning public gatherings and for ensuring facilities for the public in the use of public places, or for maintaining public order when the country is at war or in a state of war, or during the time that a state of emergency or martial law is declared.

Article 40. Every person enjoys the freedom to form associations, unions, federations, cooperatives, or any other society.

Formation, objectives, and operation and abolition of an association, union, federation, cooperative, or any other society shall be carried out in compliance with the provisions of the law.

Article 41. Every person enjoys the freedom to form a political party for the purpose of pursuing his political activities in line with the democratic system, with His Majesty the King as head of state as provided in this Constitution.

The formation, management, and dissolution of political parties shall be in accordance with the provisions of law on political parties.

Political parties must have account books to show their assets and debt and must declare openly the sources of their income and their expenditures in accordance with the provisions of law on political parties.

Article 42. Every person enjoys the freedom of communications by lawful means.

Inspection, detention, or disclosure of correspondences or communications between persons shall be prohibited unless such action is done by virtue of the provisions of law specifically enacted for the purpose of maintaining public law and order, morals of the people, or for maintaining the security of the state.

Article 43. Every person enjoys the freedom to travel and the freedom to choose his residence within the Kingdom.

The restriction of such freedom shall not be imposed except by virtue of the provisions of a law particularly enacted for the interests of the national security, the peace of the people, public welfare, city planning, or the welfare of youths.

Deportation of any person of Thai nationality out of the Kingdom or barring any person of Thai nationality from entering the Kingdom shall be prohibited.

Article 44. A person's family rights, honor, or reputation and rights of livelihood are protected.

Article 45. Every person has the right to submit a petition under the conditions and procedure in accordance with the law.

Article 46. The right of a person to sue a government body, which is a juristic person, for its liability for an act performed by any public officials is guaranteed.

Article 47. Members of the Armed Forces and of the police forces, civil officials, local officials, or employees of government organizations enjoy the same constitutional rights and freedoms under the Constitution as those accorded their fellow citizens unless they are restricted by laws, by-laws, or regulations issued by virtue of laws involving political activities, efficiency, or discipline.

Article 48. A person's rights in business, occupation, or fair and free competition are protected.

Abridgment of these rights stipulated in paragraph one may be made only by virtue of the provisions of law particularly enacted for the interests of the security of the country, the national economy, public welfare, for preserving peace and good cultures of the public, arranging occupational orders, protecting consumers, city planning, preserving natural resources or environment, for the welfare of the people, or for preventing monopoly or getting rid of unfair competition.

Article 49. No person can exercise the rights and liberty provided under the Constitution against the nation, religion, the King, or the Constitution.

Chapter 4: Duties of the Thai People

Article 50. Every person has the duty to protect the nation, religion, the King, and the democratic form of government with the King as Head of State of this Constitution.

Article 51. Every person has the duty to exercise his voting rights with good faith.

Article 52. Every person has the duty to protect the nation.

Article 53. Every person has the duty to undergo military service in accordance with the law.

Article 54. Every person has the duty to respect and comply with the law.

Article 55. Every person has the duty to pay taxes and duties in accordance with the law.

Article 56. Every person has the duty to render assistance to the government service in accordance with by law.

Article 57. Every person has the duty to receive education and training under the conditions and methods in accordance with the law.

Article 58. Every person has the duty to preserve natural resources and environment in accordance with the law.

Chapter 5: Guiding Principles of State Policies

Article 59. The provisions in this chapter are intended as guiding principles for legislation and determination of policies and do not give rise to any cause for legal action against the State.

Article 60. The State is to safeguard the monarchy, and the independence and integrity of its territories.

Article 61. The Armed Forces should be maintained so far as they are necessary for safeguarding national independence, security, and interests.

The Armed Forces may be employed for the purpose of battle or war and for the prevention of war, for protection of the monarchy, for the suppression of riots, for maintaining the security of the state, and for helping national development.

Article 62. The State is to enforce law and order so the people may be assured of the safety of their lives, persons, and property, as well as of their peaceful existence.

Article 63. The State is to promote international relations and adopt the principle of equality among nations.

Article 64. The State shall organize the official service and other State affairs for the achievement of efficiency, eliminate redundant procedures, clearly specify the authority of state officials, and take every measure to prevent and suppress negligence of duties and corruption.

Article 65. The State is to establish the administration of justice so that convenient and quick justice shall be available to the people.

Article 66. The State is to promote and support education and vocational training in accordance with suitability and needs of the country and to promote the private sector to take part in education and training at all levels in accordance with the law.

The organization of education and training system is an exclusive duty of the State. All educational establishments shall be under the control and supervision of the State.

Compulsory education in the educational establishments of the State must be provided without charge and must be carried out efficiently.

As for higher education, the State should allow educational establishment to manage their own affairs within the limit in accordance with the law.

The State shall assist indigent persons to receive appropriate scholarships and other essentials in pursuing their education or receiving occupation training.

Article 67. The State is to promote art and technological research and is to promote and accelerate scientific and technological development so that they can be used in national development.

Article 68. The State shall promote and develop the equality of men and women.

Article 69. The State shall support and promote the development of the citizens of the country, especially children and youths so that they will be healthy physically, mentally, intellectually, ethically, and morally.

Article 70. The State shall encourage the people to understand and have faith in the democratic system with the King as head of state.

Article 71. The State shall promote the decentralization of fiscal authority to provinces so that they can have the capability in revenue collection and in management of income for the benefit of administration for the people.

Article 72. The State shall preserve and promote arts and cultures of the country.

Article 73. The State shall promote sports, tourism, and recreation.

Article 74. The State shall protect the environment, maintain the balance of natural resources and their replacements, prevent and eliminate pollutants, and adopt an appropriate plan on land and water utilization.

Article 75. The State shall take measures to raise the quality and standard of the life of the people.

Article 76. The State shall take effective measures to enable farmers to acquire land ownership and rights in land for pursuing their agricultural cultivation by means of land reform, land allocations, or other methods.

The State shall provide or supervise the use of sufficient water in agriculture for farmers.

The State shall promote and protect the interests of the farmers in producing, keeping, and selling of their products in order to ensure that they receive fair return and shall encourage the grouping of farmers to preserve the above interests through the formation of cooperatives or other methods.

Article 77. The State shall support the private sector to play a role in economics.

The State shall not operate any business-like activities or any activities in competition with the private sector except in the case of necessity for maintaining the security of the State, the public interests, or for providing public utilities.

The State shall lay down measures to prevent direct and indirect economic monopoly by private persons outside the provisions of law.

Article 78. The State is to lay down population policy in conformity with natural resource, economic and social conditions, and technological progress.

Article 79. The State shall provide assistance for persons who face suffering as a result of performing duties for the national course, in helping official works, carrying out humanitarian duties, or as a result of disasters.

Article 80. The State shall provide public welfare and shall promote or support the private sector's participation in public welfare.

Article 81. The State shall help and assist aged and disabled people so that they can live physically and mentally and have a hope in their lives.

Article 82. The State shall encourage people of working age to obtain employment and shall provide labor protection, espcially for child and women labor, and establish a labor relations system as well as ensure fair wages for laborers.

Article 83. The State shall promote public health and provide indigent persons with free medical treatment and shall encourage the private sector to join in providing such service as much as it can.

The prevention and eradication of communicable disease are to be carried out by the State without charge and promptly.

Article 84. The State shall adopt economic and social development plan in conformity with the State policy.

Chapter 6: National Assembly

Part 1: General Provisions

Article 85. National Assembly consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Whether the National Assembly holds a bicameral or single chamber is determined by stipulations of this Constitution.

Article 86. The Senate president is the president of the National Assembly. The president of the House of Representatives is the vice president of the National Assembly.

In case the Senate president does not exist, is absent, or is unable to perform the duty of president of the National Assembly, the president of the House of Representatives is to act as the president of the National Assembly.

The president of the National Assembly has the authority and duties as stipulated in this constitution and performs the tasks of the National Assembly in bicameral sessions in accordance with the regulations.

The vice president of the National Assembly has the authority and duties as stipulated in this constitution and as assigned by the president.

Article 87. Draft bills can be promulgated as laws only at the recommendation and consent of the National Assembly.

Article 88. After the National Assembly's approval of a draft bill, within 30 days after receiving the draft bill from the National Assembly the prime minister is to submit it to the King for his signature. After publication in the royal gazette, it can be enforced as law.

Article 89. The National Assembly has to reconsider any draft bill that the King disapproves and returns to the National Assembly, or one that he has not returned after 90 days. If the National Assembly reconfirms the draft bill with a vote of no less than two-thirds of the combined number of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the prime minister is to resubmit it to the King. If the King does not sign and return it in 30 days, the prime minister is to publish it in the royal gazette for enforcement as law as if the King had signed it.

Article 90. An individual cannot be a member of the Senate and the House of Representatives simultaneously.

Article 91. At least one-third of the number of the entire members of the Senate or the House of Representatives have the right to give their signatures to petition the presidents of their respective chambers that membership of any member of their chamber expires per Article 97 (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (10), or (11), or article 114 (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (10), or (11) whichever applies. The president of concerned chamber receiving such a petition is to forward the petition to the Constitutional Tribunal for consideration.

After constitution, the Constitutional Tribunal is to report its resolution to the president of the chamber concerned.

The above resolution of the Constitutional Tribunal must be supported by at least three-fourths of the entire members of the tribunal.

Article 92. In case any member of the Senate or House of Representatives commits an act which constitutes a violation of the official duties, violation of the duties of officials who perform legislative tasks, or damage to the honor of being a senator or member of the House of Representatives, senators or members of the House of Representatives numbering no less than one-third of the number of the respective chamber have the right to sign a petition to the president of the chamber concerned to have the chamber consider removing membership of the offender.

The resolution of the Senate or House of Representatives removing membership in the above paragraph must be achieved by no less than three-fourths of the entire membership of the chamber concerned.

Article 93. The end of membership of the Senate or the House of Representatives due to expiration of membership term or due to the resolution of the Constitutional Tribunal does not affect the activities that the concerned member performed while a member, including his salary or other benefits received before end of membership or before the president of the concerned chamber is informed of the resolution of the Constitutional Tribunal.

Part 2: The Senate

Article 94. The Senate is composed of members appointed by the King from qualified persons possessing knowledge and experience in various branches of technology and professions useful to the administration of the State under the democratic system with His Majesty the King as head of state, who are of Thai nationality by birth and not less than 35 years old; are not a member, an official, or an adviser of any political party; not an elected member of local councils or local administrators; has never been voted out of the the Senate or the House of Representatives under Article 92; and has never lost membership upon the decision of the Constitutional Tribunal under Article 91.

The Senate shall consist of 270 senators.

In case the number of senators decreases to less than 270, the remaining senators will make a quorum of the Senate under Article 98.

Article 95. The term of office of the Senate is six years from the date of its appointment by the King. At the initial stage, one half of the total senators under paragraph two of Article 94 shall terminate their membership by drawing lots at the end of three years after appointment by the King. The King will appoint the equal numbers to replace the vacancies left over by the termination of membership of the half. At the end of six years, the other half of the senators remaining shall expire and there will be appointments to replace the numbers that retired every three years.

His Majesty the King shall retain the right to reappoint any member who is terminated from membership upon expiration of term of office.

Article 96. Senators must not receive a concession from the state or government agency or state enterprise, or hold a position or be a party to a contract with the state or government agency, or state enterprise, the nature of which constitutes either direct or indirect monopoly, except for the concessions or contracts which are obtained before being appointed as senators.

Article 97. The membership of the Senate terminates upon:

(1) Expiration of the term of office.
(2) Death.
(3) Resignation.
(4) Revocation of Thai nationality.
(5) Being a member, an official, or an adviser of any political party.
(6) Being an elected member of local councils or local administrators.
(7) Falling into any category listed in article 107 (1), (2), (3), (4), (7), (8), (11), or (12).
(8) Commission by the member of any of the acts forbidden by Article 96.
(9) Upon the decision by the Senate under Article 92 or by the decision of the Constitutional Tribunal under Article 91. The membership is terminated upon the decision made by the Senator or the Constitutional Tribunal.
(10) Having been absent throughout a session which is not less than 90 days without the permission of the President of the Senate.
(11) Having been imprisoned by a final judgment of imprisonment except for an offence committed as a result of negligence or a petty offence.

Article 98. If the office of a senator becomes vacant for any reason other than the expiration of his term of office, the King will select and appoint a person properly qualified under Article 94 to fill the vacancy. The senator so appointed may hold office for the remaining term of the person he replaces.

Part 3: The House of Representatives

Article 99. The House of Representatives consists of 360 members elected under the provisions in Article 100.

In case of any event resulting in the number of the House of Representatives to be less than 360, the number elected shall stand to be the House of Representatives pending further elections within 90 days of the remaining number. The term of those elected afterwards shall be the same as the term of the entire House of Representatives.

Article 100. The number of representatives in a province shall be calculated on the basis of the total population of each province according to the population registration announced in the year preceding the election for 360 members of the House of Representatives.

Any province having a population less than that required for one member of the House of Representatives under paragraph one shall be granted one representative. Any province with a population exceeding the amount required for one representative shall be eligible to elect one additional member of the House of Representatives in the ratio of one per every number exceeding the quota for one representative.

If the number of representatives does not reach 360 on the basis of the calculation under paragraph two, the provinces whose population exceed the amount required for one representative under paragraph two shall be eligible to another representative each by priority based on the amount of exceeding population of each province.

Article 101. Any province which is entitled to elect up to three representatives to the House shall be regarded as one electoral constituency. Any province which is entitled to elect more than three representatives to the House shall be divided into electoral constituencies with each constituency to be entitled to elect three representatives to the House.

In the case where a province cannot be divided into constituencies with three representatives each, it shall be divided first into constituencies with each having three representatives, and the remaining constituency shall have at least two members of the House of Representatives.

The province with four members of representatives shall be divided into two constituencies with each constituency having two members of the House of Representatives.

In the province which consists of more than one constituency, each constituency shall be of one undivided area, and the ratio of the population to the number of members of the House of Representatives to be elected in one constituency must be close to that in each of the other constituencies.

Article 102. In each electoral constituency, the electorate shall be entitled to cast votes for the number of candidates equal to the number of members of the House of Representatives which can be elected in that constituency.

Elections to the House of Representatives shall be direct and secret.

Article 103. A person having the following qualifications is entitled to vote:

(1) Being of Thai nationality. A person of Thai nationality by naturalization must have acquired Thai nationality for at least 10 years.
(2) Being not less than 20 years of age on 1 January of the election year, and
(3) Having the name in the house registration of the electoral constituency.

Article 104. Persons having the following disabilities on the day of the election shall be forbidden to vote:

(1) Being insane or of unsound mind;
(2) Being a monk, novice, ascetic, or a priest;
(3) Being under detention by a court warrant;
(4) Being disenfranchised by court judgment.

Article 105. A candidate for election must possess the following qualifications:

(1) Having Thai nationality by birth. A person who has Thai nationality but was born of alien father must possess the qualifications prescribed in the law concerning election of members of the House of Representatives.

(2) Being not less that 25 years of age on the election day.
(3) Being member of a political party which fields candidates to the election under Article 106, or of a political party under Article 115 paragraph 2.
(4) Having the following qualifications:

(a) Having the name in the house registration in the province of the election for at least 180 consecutive days on the day of the election;
(b) Being a former member of parliament of the province, or being a former member of the provincial or administrative council of the province;
(c) Being born in the province of the election;
(d) Having education in the province for at least two consecutive academic years.

Article 106. The political parties whose members are eligible to contest in the general election under Article 105 (3) must field at least 120 candidates in the general election. They must also field as many candidates as the number of representatives to be elected in each constituency.

Any political party fielding candidates for the election shall not be entitled to withdraw from the race.

Any political party having fielded a required number of candidates for election under paragraph one will always remain eligible for race under paragraph one although it may happen later on that the number of its candidates is less than the required amount.

Article 107. Persons having the following disabilities are prohibited from standing as candidates for the elections:

(1) Being addicted to narcotics;
(2) Being declared bankrupt by court and still not discharged;
(3) Being disqualified for voting in an election under Article 104 (1), (2), or (4);
(4) Being deaf and dumb;

(5) Having been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment;
(6) Having been convicted to a sentence of more than two years and having been released for a period of less than five years on the election day for an offence other than one relating to negligence;
(7) Having been subjected to dismissal, discharge, or removal from civil service, government agencies, or state enterprises from malfeasances or an equivalent;
(8) Conviction by court or court warrant for confiscation of assets by the state for reason of being unusually wealthy;
(9) Being a civil servant with a permanent position and salary, not a political appointee;
(10) Being employed by a state agency, state enterprise, or local administration;
(11) Having been disenfranchised from membership of the Senate or the House of Representatives under Article 92;
(12) Having been ruled by the Constitutional Tribunal, under Article 91, to lose membership of the House of Representatives from evidences of election fraud no matter under which forms.

Article 108. Members of the House of Representatives:

(1) Must not hold a position or serve in a government agency, state agency, or state enterprise, or be a member of a local council, local administrative official, or local government official, except a position of a minister or other political official.
(2) Must not receive a concession from the state, a government agency, state agency, or state enterprise, or be a party to a contract with the state, a government agency, state agency, or state enterprise, the nature of which constitutes either direct or indirect monopoly.
(3) Must not receive any money or benefit from a government agency, state agency, or state enterprise in addition to that given by such government agency, state agency, or state enterprise to other persons in its normal transaction.

The provisions in (2) shall not apply to the case where a member of the House of Representatives received a concession or be a party to a contract prior to the election.

The provisions in this article shall not apply to the case where a member of the House of Representatives is entitled to allowances, gratuities, pensions, or annuities granted for royal relatives, or any other money of the same nature, and shall not apply to the case where a member of the House of Representatives accepts or holds a position as a committee member of the National Assembly, the House of Representatives, or a committee member appointed as a qualified member in accordance with the law, or a committee member appointed to a political position in charge of national administration.

Article 109. Subject to this Constitution, the rules and procedure of election shall be in accordance with the law on election of members of the House of Representatives.

Article 110. The term of the House of Representatives is four years from the election day.

Article 111. Upon expiration of the term of the House of Representatives, the King will issue a royal decree calling for a general election. The election day must be fixed within 60 days from the date of expiration of the term of the House of Representatives, and it must be the same throughout the Kingdom.

Article 112. The King has the prerogative of dissolving the House of Representatives in order to have a new election be held.

The House of Representatives shall be dissolved by a royal decree in which the election day is fixed within 90 days. The election day must be the same throughout the Kingdom.

The House of Representatives may be dissolved only once under the same circumstance.

Article 113. Membership of the House of Representatives commences on the election day.

Article 114. Membership of the House of Representatives terminates upon:

(1) Expiration of the term or dissolution of the House of Representatives;

(2) Death;

(3) Resignation;

(4) Being disqualified under Article 105 (1), (2), or (4);

(5) Being under any prohibition provided under Article 107 (1), (2), (3), (4), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), or (12);

(6) Having performed an act prohibited under Article 108;

(7) Having resigned from the political party of which one is a member, or being expelled from the party. In this circumstance, membership shall be terminated as of the date of resignation or expulsion by the party.

(8) Being expelled from membership of the House of Representatives by a resolution of the House of Representatives under Article 92, or by a resolution of the Constitution Tribunal under Article 91. In this circumstance, membership shall expire as of the date of the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives or the Constitution Tribunal.

(9) Being terminated from membership upon dissolution by court order of the political party of which one is a member, and failure to become a member of another political party which has members in the House of Representatives within 60 days of the court's order. In this circumstance, membership will be terminated after 60 days of the court's order.

(10) Having been absent throughout a session which is not less than 90 days without the permission of the president of the House of Representatives.

(11) being imprisoned by a final judgment except for an offence committed through negligence or a petty offence.

A party resolution under (7) must be by a vote of at least a three-fourths majority of a joint meeting of the party's executive committee and the party's members of the House of Representatives.

Article 115. If there is a vacancy in membership of the House of Representatives due to reasons other than the expiration of the term or the dissolution of the House of Representatives, an election shall be held within 90 days to fill the vacancy, unless the remaining term of the House of Representatives is less than 180 days.

For an election under paragraph one, candidates must be members of the political parties which already have members of the House of Representatives from the general election. Provisions under Article 106 will serve as a general guideline.

The replacing member may hold office only for the remaining term of the House of Representatives.

Article 116. After the Cabinet has assumed administrative office, the King will appoint as leader of the opposition a member of the House of Representatives who is leader of a political party whose members do not hold ministerial posts. The party must be the biggest among parties with none of their members holding ministerial posts, and the number must not be less than one-fifth of the total number of the members of the House of Representatives.

The president of the House of Representatives shall countersign the royal command appointing the leader of the opposition of the House of Representatives.

The leader of the opposition shall vacate office upon being disqualified under paragraph one, and provisions under Article 120, paragraphs one and two shall be applied. In such case, the King shall appoint a leader of the opposition to fill the vacancy.

Part 4: Provisions Applicable to Both Houses

Article 117. Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives are representatives of the people.

Article 118. Before taking office, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall take the following oath before their respective houses:

"I, (name of oath taker), hereby swear that I shall assume all my duties honestly for the benefit of Thai people and shall preserve and implement the provisions of the constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand."

Article 119. The Senate and the House of Representatives shall each have a president and one or two vice presidents appointed by the king in accordance with the resolution of the respective houses.

Article 120. The president and vice president of the Senate hold their posts until the day before election of the new president and vice presidents, which is done every three years.

The president and vice presidents of the House of Representatives hold their posts until the end of the house's term or dissolution of the house.

The posts of the president and vice presidents of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall end before the durations mentioned in the above two paragraphs when:

(1) Membership in the house that he belongs is lost,
(2) Resigned,
(3) Assuming cabinet minister or other political post,
(4) Sentenced to jail term.

Article 121. The presidents of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall have the duties of conducting the proceedings of their respective houses in accordance with the respective rules of procedure. The vice presidents have the duties assigned by the presidents and perform in place of the presidents when the presidents are absent or could not perform their duties.

Article 122. When the president and vice presidents of the Senate or the House of Representatives are absent from any sitting of their respective houses, the members of the house concerned shall elect a president for that sitting.

Article 123. The quorum of any meeting of the Senate or the House of Representatives is one-half the total number of the members of that house, except when considering procedures for interpellations per Article 149 which either house may set its own quorum.

Article 124. All deliberations shall be decided by majority votes, except when stipulated otherwise in this Constitution.

A member has one vote, if there is a tie the president of that sitting shall cast the deciding vote.

Article 125. In any meeting of the Senate, House of Representatives, or combined National Assembly, a member has absolute privilege to make any remark to state the fact or opinion, or to cast his vote. No legal suit can be taken against him.

The privilege mentioned in the above paragraph does not protect the member's statement made during a house sitting that is broadcast on radio or television, if that statement appears outside parliament and constitutes a criminal violation or violation of other individual's civil rights.

Article 126. The privilege stipulated in Article 125 paragraph one extends to the printers and publishers of the minutes of the sittings per regulations of the Senate, House of Representatives, or combined National Assembly. It also protects individuals whom the president of the sitting permits to make a statement of fact or opinion, as well as the people who perform the radio or television broadcasting of the sitting at the authorization of the president.

Article 127. The first meeting of the National Assembly is to be called within 30 days after the election of the members of the House of Representatives.

The National Assembly shall have two ordinary sessions per year.

The first meeting per paragraph one is to be regarded as the beginning of the first annual ordinary session. The beginning of the second annual ordinary session is to be decided by the members of the House of Representatives.

In the second annual session of the National Assembly, the Senate and the House of Representatives may not consider other issues other than draft bills or approval of royal decrees unless with the approval of the Senate or the House of Representatives with a vote of no less than two-thirds the total number of the members of the respective house.

Article 128. Duration of each session of the National Assembly is to be 90 days, but the King has the authority to extend the duration.

Adjournment of an ordinary session before completing the 90-day duration is possible only with the consent of the National Assembly.

Article 129. The King convokes the National Assembly. He opens and closes its sessions.

The King performs the ceremony opening the first annual session per Article 127, paragraph one himself, or assign the heir to the throne, who is of age, to act on his behalf.

Article 130. When necessary in the national interest, the King may convene an extraordinary session of the National Assembly.

Article 131. Members of the Senate or House of Representatives or members of the two houses combined numbering no less than one-third of the total number of the members of the two houses have the right to petition the King to issue a command convening an ordinary session of the National Assembly.

The petition in the above paragraph is to be submitted to the president of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly president submits the petition to the King and countersigns the royal command.

Article 132. Per Article 131, convening a meeting, extending the meeting, and closing a meeting of the National Assembly is to be done by a royal decree.

Article 133. During a session of the National Assembly, members of the Senate or the House of Representatives may not be arrested, detained, or summoned for investigation as crime suspects, except when permitted by the houses concerned or when the arrest was made as the crime occurred.

In the case that the arrest is made as the crime occurs, the president of the house concerned is to be informed urgently, and he may order the release.

Article 134. In case that a criminal case is brought against a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives during a session or a recess, the court may not conduct a trial during the session unless permitted by the house concerned or unless the case involves the election law, but the trial must not obstruct the member's attendance at the house concerned.

The court trial that takes place before a suspect invokes the plea of membership of either house is valid.

Article 135. If a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives is detained while on trial before a National Assembly session, the investigation officer or the court must release him when a session begins, if requested by the president of the house concerned.

The release order in the above paragraph is to be effective from the date of the release order to the last day of the session.

Article 136. The Senate may not hold a meeting while term of the House of Representatives is expired or the House of Representatives is dissolved, except when the meeting serves to allow the Senate to perform the duties per articles 17, 21, and 177. Voting is based on the number of the senators.

Article 137. Draft bills may be initiated only by the Cabinet or members of the House of Representatives, but members of the House of Representatives may initiate draft bills concerning finance only with certification of the prime minister.

Draft bills may be initiated by a member of the House of Representatives only with the consent of his political party and must be supported by at least 20 members of that party.

A draft financial bill is defined as a bill which concerns the following terms, whole or part:

(1) Establishment, abrogation, reduction, amendment, relaxation, or setting of regulations concerning tax or excise;
(2) Allocation, receipt, holding, or expending of the country's fund, or transfer of the national budget expenditure;
(3) Establishment of an agency which results in increase in budget expenditure;
(4) Borrowing or loan guaranteeing or spending;
(5) Currency.

In case there is a question as to whether a bill is a financial bill which requires the prime minister's certification, the president of the House of Representatives is to make a ruling.

Article 138. In a draft bill initiated by members of the House of Representatives that is considered not to be a financial bill in the acceptance-in-principle stage but is amended by the house and subsequently deemed by the house president to become a financial bill, the house president is to suspend its consideration temporarily and forward it to the prime minister for certification. If the prime minister does not give certification, the house is to amend the bill so that it will not be a financial bill.

Article 139. Draft bills are to be submitted to the House of Representatives first.

Article 140. Per Article 146, after the House of Representatives has considered the draft bill initiated by virtue of Article 139 and approved it, the house is to submit the bill to the Senate. The Senate must complete its consideration of the submitted bill within 60 days. If the bill is a financial bill, the Senate must complete its consideration within 30 days, unless the Senate votes to extend its consideration in a special case which must not exceed 30 days. The length of time applies to National Assembly session working days and starts from the day that the bill reaches the Senate.

The time in the first paragraph does not include the time under consideration by the Constitutional Tribunal per Article 143.

If the Senate does not complete its consideration of a bill within the time specified in the first paragraph, the Senate is deemed to have approved the bill.

In submitting a draft financial bill to the Senate, the house president is to identify it as such. The house president's identification is final.

If the house president does not identify a bill as a financial bill, the bill is regarded as non-financial.

Article 141. Per Article 146, after the Senate completes its consideration of a draft bill,

(1) If it agrees with the House of Representatives, it is to proceed in accordance with Article 88.
(2) If it disagrees with the House of Representatives, it is to withhold the bill and return it to the House of Representatives.
(3) If it makes an alteration, it is to send the altered bill to the House of Representatives. If the House of Representatives deems it a minor alteration and approves of the alteration, it is to proceed in accordance with Article 88. If another situation applies, each house is to appoint an equal number of people who may or may not be members of either house in the number to be specified by the House of Representatives to a joint commission to consider the bill. The joint commission is to submit a report and propose a bill to both houses. If both houses approve of the bill proposed by the joint commission, they are to proceed in accordance with article 88. If either house disapproves the bill, it is to be withheld.

The joint commission may demand documents from any individual or summon any individual to provide facts and opinions in the course of its consideration of a bill. Privileges stipulated in Articles 125 and 126 protect the individuals who perform their duties in this article.

The quorum of a meeting of the joint commission is one-half the total number of the commission members. Stipulations in Article 157 apply.

Article 142. In the draft bill which has been withheld per Article 141, the House of Representatives can reconsider it 180 days after the Senate returns it, for the withheld bill per Article 141 (2), and after the date of disapproval by either house for the bill withheld per Article 141 (3). In such a case, if the House of Representatives reconfirms the original bill or the bill amended by the joint commission by majority of votes of more than half of the total number of the house members, such bill is deemed to have been approved by the National Assembly and is to be proceeded in accordance with Article 88.

If a draft bill that has been withheld is a financial bill, the House of Representatives may reconsider the bill immediately. In such a case, if the house reconfirms the original bill or the bill amended by the joint commission by majority votes of more than half of the total number of the house members, the bill is deemed to have been approved by the National Assembly and is to be proceeded in accordance with Article 88.

Article 143. While a bill is withheld per Article 141, the cabinet or members of the House of Representatives may not initiate a bill which incorporates the same or similar principles as the withheld bill.

In the case that the Senate or the House of Representatives deems that a draft bill submitted for its consideration has the same or similar principles as the withheld bill, the president of the Senate or the House of Representatives is to submit the bill to the Constitutional Tribunal for deliberation. If the Constitutional Tribunal rules that the bill has the same or similar principle as the delayed bill, the bill is to be dropped.

Article 144. In the case that the term of the House of Representatives expires or the house is dissolved, the draft bills pending deliberation by the National Assembly or the bills which the King has rejected or has not sent back in 90 days are to be dropped.

Article 145. The national expenditure budget is to be done in the form of an Act. If the Annual Budget Act could not be passed in time for the next fiscal year, the national budget act of the previous year is to be used for the time being.

Article 146. The House of Representatives is to complete its consideration of the draft national budget act, the draft budget increase act, and the draft budget transference act within 90 days after their receipt.

If the house fails to complete its consideration of the acts within the time specified in the first paragraph, it is deemed that the house has approved the acts and the acts are to be submitted to the Senate.

After receipt, the Senate must approve or reject the draft acts within 15 days. No alterations are allowed. In the set time transpired, the Senate is deemed to have approved the draft acts. In this case and the case of approval, the Senate is to proceed in accordance with article 88.

If the draft acts are rejected by the Senate, Article 142, paragraph two is to be applied.

In consideration of the draft annual national budget, draft budget increase act, and the draft budget transference act, members of the House of Representatives may not introduce new items or increase in expenditures but may make cuts, providing that cuts are not made of the following obligations:

(1) Loan repayments,
(2) Loan interests,
(3) Funds to be expended by law.

Article 147. Payment of state funds shall be made only when it has been authorized by the law on budget, the law on budgetary procedure, the law on transfer of budgetary accountability, or the law on treasury balance, except that it may be prepaid in the case of urgent necessity under the rules and procedure provided by law. In such case, the budget for reimbursment must be set aside in the transfer of budget act, the supplementary budget act, or the annual budget act for the following fiscal year.

Article 148. The Senate and the House of Representatives are, by virtue of this Constitution, vested with the power to control the administration of the state affairs.

Article 149. Every senator or member of the House of Representatives has the right to interpellate a minister on any matter within the scope of his authority, but the minister has the right to decline to answer when the Cabinet is of the opinion that the matter should not yet be disclosed for reason of safety or vital interest of the state.

Answers to interpellations under paragraph one can be made in the Royal Gazettes. Answers can be made at the sittings of respective houses if it was an interpellation submitted by the opposition leader, or if it was considered by the president of the Senate or the House that the interpellation is an urgent issue or involves the common interest of the nation or the administration of state affairs.

Article 150. Members of the House of Representatives of not less than one-fifth of the total number of the House members have the right to submit a motion for a general debate for the purpose of passing a vote of no confidence in an individual minister or the entire Cabinet.

If the general debate is concluded without a resolution to pass over the agenda of the general debate, the House of Representatives shall pass vote of confidence or no confidence. Voting shall take place the following day after the conclusion of the general debate. The vote of no confidence must be passed by more than one-half of the total number of the members of the House of Representatives.

In the case where a vote of no confidence is passed by not more than one-half of the total number of the members of the House, the members of the House who submit the motion for the general debate shall no longer have the right to submit another motion for the general debate for the purpose of passing a vote of no confidence in an individual minister of the cabinet throughout the session.

Article 151. Senators of no less than one-third of the total number of the Senate have the right to submit a motion for a general debate to have the Cabinet give statement of fact or opinion on any question relating to administration of state affairs.

In a general debate conducted under paragraph one, no resolution shall be made on the question debated.

Article 152. The sittings of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the joint sitting of the National Assembly are public under the conditions stipulated in the rules of the procedure of each house. Upon request by the cabinet, or members of the houses, with no less than a quarter of the total number of the members of each house or of both houses, as the case may be, the sitting shall be held behind closed doors.

Article 153. The Senate and the House of Representatives have the power to select and appoint members of each house to constitute standing committees and to select and appoint members or other persons to constitute special committees in order to screen draft bills as assigned by the Senate or the House, or to perform any act assigned by the house and to report its findings to the house within the deadline given. The said committees have the power to demand documents from any person or summon any person to give a statement of fact or opinion on the act or the matter under its inquiry or consideration.

Activities assigned by the house to the committees must be within the authority of the House of Representatives and must be clearly defined in the house resolution case by case.

The privilege provided in Articles 125 and 126 shall also extend to the persons performing their duties under this article.

Appointment of standing committee membership shall be made in close proportion to the number of house members each political party or group of parties has in the House of Representatives.

In the absence of the rule of procedure of the House of Representatives under Article 154, the president of the House of Representatives shall determine the proportion under paragraph four.

Article 154. The Senate and the House of Representatives are empowered to draft rules of proceedings regarding the election and functions of the presidents, vice presidents, and the standing committees, the quorum of standing committees, the proceedings, the proposal and deliberation of bills, the proposal of motions, consultation, debate, voting, fielding of interpellations, opening of a general debate, maintenance of order, and other activities in compliance with the provisions of this constitution.

Article 155. If a number of no less than one-tenth of senators or house members respectively see that certain rules or regulations of their respective house contradict provisions in this Constitution, they shall make proposal to the Constitutional Tribunal for interpretation. Once an interpretation is made, the Constitutional Tribunal shall report to the respective presidents of the houses to take action.

Part 5: Joint Meetings of the National Assembly

Article 156. The National Assembly shall hold joint meetings for the following purposes:

(1) Giving approval to the appointment of the regent under Article 17;
(2) Solemn declaration by the regent before the National Assembly under Article 19;
(3) Acknowledgement of an amendment to the Law on Succession to the Throne B.E. 2467 under Article 20;
(4) Acknowledging or giving approval to succession to the throne under Article 21;
(5) Reconsideration of a new draft bill under Article 89;
(6) Giving approval to the closing of the session under Article 128;
(7) Opening of the National Assembly session under Article 129;
(8) Drawing up of the rules of procedure under Article 129;
(9) Policy statement under Article 165;
(10) General debate under Article 167;
(11) Approval to a war declaration under Article 177;
(12) Approval of treaties under Article 178;
(13) Amendment of the Constitution under Article 211;

Article 157. The rules of the meetings of the House of Representatives shall apply for the joint meetings of the National Assembly. In the absence of the rules of the meetings of the House of Representatives, the rules of the meetings of the Senate shall be used on a temporary basis.

Article 158. The provisions applicable to both houses shall apply to the joint meetings of the National Assembly with the exception of appointment of committees in which case the number of members of the committee appointed from members of each house shall be in direct proportion to each house.

Chapter 7: The Cabinet

Article 159. The King appoints the prime minister and not more than 48 ministers to form the Cabinet in charge of administering the affairs of state.

The speaker of the House of Representatives shall countersign the royal command appointing the prime minister.

Article 160. Before taking office, the Cabinet ministers shall take oath before the king as follows:

"I (name) do solemnly declare that I will be faithful and loyal to His Majesty the King, and will honestly and with justice perform my duties in the interests of the country and people, and will preserve and observe the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand in every respect."

Article 161. Following are requirements and prohibitions for a Cabinet minister:

(1) Having qualifications required for a candidate for the election under Article 105 (1);
(2) Being at least 30 years of age;
(3) Not being under prohibitions provided under Article 107 (1), (2), (3), (4), (7), (8), (11), or (12).
(4) Never having been sentenced by a court judgment for more than two years term of imprisonment, and having been discharged for a period of less than five years upon appointment except for an offence committed through negligence.

Article 162. A minister shall not be a government official with permanent position and salary, except for a political appointee.

Article 163. No minister may hold positions or perform any act in conflict with the performance of ministerial duties or any act prohibited to the representatives as provided in Article 108, except for the positions held under the provisions of law, and no minister may be a manager, director, consultant, representative, or employee of any person, partnership, company or organization which carries on business for profit.

Article 164. Every minister has the right to attend the meetings and state facts or express his opinions in the House of Representatives although he is not a member, but he is not entitled to vote.

The privileges as provided in Articles 125 and 126 shall apply.

Article 165. Before exercising executive power, the Cabinet shall have to declare its policies to the National Assembly, but vote of confidence is not needed.

Article 166. In exercising the executive power, Cabinet ministers must adhere to provisions in the Constitution, laws, and stated policies as provided under Article 165. They must be responsible to the House of Representatives for administration of their office, and collectively to the Senate and the House of Representatives concerning the overall policies of the government.

Article 167. In the case where the Cabinet sees that a problem concerning an affair of the state should be referred to members of the Senate or the House of Representatives, the prime minister shall, through the president of the National Assembly, request a general debate in the National Assembly, but no resolution shall be made by the National Assembly on the debated problem.

Article 168. The Cabinet vacates office en masse upon:

(1) The passing of a no-confidence vote by the House of Representatives under Article 150;
(2) The expiration of the term of the House of Representatives or the dissolution of the House of Representatives;
(3) The resignation of the Cabinet;
(4) The termination of the ministership of the prime minister under Article 169.

The outgoing Cabinet shall remain in office and carry on the administration until a new Cabinet is appointed.

Article 169. The ministership of an individual minister terminates upon:

(1) Death;
(2) Resignation;
(3) Disqualification or under any prohibition as provided in Article 161;
(4) Being sentenced by a judgment to imprisonment;.
(5) The passing of a no-confidence vote by the House of Representatives under Article 150;
(6) Having performed an act prohibited by Article 163;
(7) A royal command under Article 171.

Provisions of Article 91, Article 92, Article 93 shall apply to the termination of the ministership under (2), (3), (4), or (6).

Article 170. In case the prime minister doubts whether or not the ministership of any individual minister is terminated under Article 169 (2), (3), (4), or (6); he can ask the the Constitutional Tribunal to make a ruling. In this case, provisions of paragraph three of Article 91 and Article 93 can be applied mutatis mutandis.

Article 171. The King has the prerogative of relieving a minister of his office upon the advice of the prime minister.

Article 172. In case there is an urgent necessity to maintain the national or public safety or national economic security or to avert public calamity, the King may issue an Administrative Decree which shall have the force of an Act.

The issuance of an Administrative Decree under paragraph one can be done only when the the Cabinet deems it as an urgent necessity which cannot be avoided.

At the meeting of the National Assembly immediately following the issuance of the decree, the Cabinet shall submit the Administrative Decree to the National Assembly for consideration without delay. If the National Assembly is in recess and if it may be too late to wait for the opening of the ordinary session, the Cabinet shall take action to call for the opening of an extraordinary session to consider approval or disapproval for the Administrative Decree. If the House of Representatives disapproves or approves it but the Senate disapproves it and and the House of Representatives reaffirms its approval by votes of not more than one-half of the total number of its members, the Administrative Decree will lapse; provided that it shall not affect any act made during the enforcement of such an Administrative Decree.

If an Administrative Decree issued under paragraph one which results in the amendment or abolition to provisions of any law and the Administrative Decree is disapproved under paragraph three, the provisions of that law before the amendment or abolition will become effective since the date of the disapproval of the Administrative Decree is effective.

If the Senate and the House of Representatives approve the Administrative Decree or if the Senate disapproves it but the House of Representatives reaffirms its approval by vote of more than one-half of the total number of its members, such Administrative Decree shall continue to have the force as an Act.

The prime Minister Shall cause the approval or disapproval of the Administrative Decree to be published in the Royal Gazette. In the case of disapproval, it shall be effective as from the day following the date of its publication in the Royal Gazette.

The consideration of an Administrative Decree by the Senate and by the House of Representatives in the case of reaffirmation of approval of the Administrative Decree must take place on the first opportunity when the National Assembly holds its sitting.

Article 173. Before the Senate or the House of Representatives moves to approve the Administrative Decree in accordance with paragraph three of Article 172, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives in a number not less than one-fifth of the total number of each House have the right to submit an objection to the presidents of their respective House that the Administrative Decree is not in line with paragraph one of Article 172 and the president of the relevant House will send the objection to the Constitutional Tribunal for arbitration. Hence, the Constitutional Tribunal will send the ruling to the president of the relevant House after it makes a decision.

When the president of the Senate or the president of the House of Representatives receives the objection from the members of the Senate or of the House of Representatives in accordance with paragraph one, they shall halt the consideration of the Administrative Decree until they receive a ruling from the Constitutional Tribunal in accordance with paragraph one.

In case the Constitutional Tribunal rules that the Administrative Decree is not issued in accordance with paragraph one of Article 172, the Administrative Decree will be nullified from the date of its issuance.

A ruling by the Constitutional Tribunal that the Administrative Decree is not in accordance with paragraph one of Article 172 must be voted by no less than two-thirds of all members of the Constitutional Tribunal.

Article 174. If, during a session, it is necessary to have laws on taxes, duties, or currency which, in the interest of the State, requires an urgent and confidential consideration, the King may issue an Administrative Decree which shall have the force as an Act.

The Administrative Decree issued under paragraph one must be submitted to the House of Representatives within three days after the date of its publication in the Royal Gazette, and the provisions of Article 172 shall apply.

Article 175. The King reserves the right to issue a royal decree insofar as it is not in contravention of the law.

Article 176. The King has the prerogative of proclaiming and lifting martial law in accordance with the conditions and manner under the law on martial law.

In case there is a necessity to proclaim martial law in certain areas, the military authority may do so under the law on martial law.

Article 177. The King has the prerogative of declaring war with the approval of the National Assembly.

The resolution of approval of the National Assembly must be passed by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of both Houses.

During the expiration of the term or the dissolution of the House of Representatives, the Senate shall, in respect of the approval under paragraph one, act as the National Assembly. The resolution of approval must be passed by votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of the Senate.

Article 178. The King has the prerogative of concluding a peace treaty, a cease-fire, and other treaties with other countries or international organizations.

A treaty which provides for a change in Thai territory or national sovereignty or requires the enactment of an Act for its implementation must be approved by the National Assembly.

Article 179. The King has the prerogative of granting a pardon.

Article 180. The King has the prerogative of removing titles and recalling decorations.

Article 181. The King appoints and retires officials in the military service and in the civil service holding the positions of permanent secretary of state, director general, and their equivalent.

Article 182. Subject to Article 181, the requirement of qualifications, recruitment, appointment, promotion, an increase in the salaries, punishment, and retirement of civil servants shall be in accordance with the law.

Article 183. A government official holding a permanent position or receiving a salary, except a political official, shall not be a political official.

Article 184. The salaries and other benefits for the positions of privy councillors, the president and vice president of the Senate, the speaker and deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, the opposition leader of the House of Representatives, members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, and members of the Constitutional Tribunal shall be in the form of a Royal Decree.

Article 185. All laws, royal rescripts, and royal commands relating to State affairs must be countersigned by a minister unless otherwise provided in this Constitution.

Chapter 8: The Courts

Article 186. The trial and adjudication of cases are the exclusive power of the Courts, which must proceed in accordance with the law and in the name of the King.

Article 187. All Courts may be established only by Acts.

Article 188. A new Court to try and adjudicate any particular cases or a case of any particular charge in place of an ordinary Court existing under the law and having jurisdiction over such case shall not be established.

Article 189. A law having the effect of changing or amending the law on organization of courts or the law on judicial procedure for the purpose of applying it to a particular case shall not be enacted.

Article 190. Judges and adjudicators are independent in the trial and adjudication of cases in accordance with the law.

Article 191. Judges and adjudicators shall not be political officials.

Article 192. The King shall appoint and dismiss the judgeship of the Court of Justice.

Prior to assuming the judgeship, the judge shall be required to take the oath of office before the King by uttering the words prescribed by the Judicial Commission in pursuance of the regulations on judicial officials.

Article 193. The appointment and removal from the office of a judge of a Court of Justice must be approved by the Judicial Commission under the law on judicial service before they are tendered to the King.

The promotion, an increase in the salaries and punishment of judges of the Courts of Justice must be approved by the Judicial Commission under the law on judicial service.

Article 194. Military Courts have the power to try and adjudicate cases as provided by the law.

The appointment and the retirement from office of a military judge shall be in accordance with the law.

Article 195. In case there is a dispute on the jurisdiction between the Court of Justice and any other court or between other courts, the Constitutional Tribunal shall decide it.

Chapter 9: Local Administration

Article 196. Local administration shall be based on the principles of self administration in accordance with the wishes of the local people and the provisions of law.

Control or supervision of local administration shall be carried out only when it is necessary in order to protect the interests of local people or the nation as a whole.

Article 197. Organization of the local administration shall comprise a local assembly, local administrative committees, or administrative authorities, or other kinds of bodies as prescribed by law.

Article 198. Members of the local assembly shall be elected in principle. Appointment of local assembly members is allowed only when it is necessary under the provisions of law and the number of appointed members must be less than the elected members.

The election of members of the local assembly shall be made by casting direct votes and behind closed doors.

Article 199. Local administrative committees or administrative authorities shall be elected in principle. Appointment of local administrative committees or administrative authorites is allowed when it is necessary under the provisions of law.

Chapter 10: Constitutional Tribunal

Article 200. The Constitutional Tribunal consists of the president of the National Assembly, the president of the House of Representatives, the president of the Supreme Court, the chief public prosecutor, and six other persons qualified in jurisprudence and in political science—three appointed by the Senate and three by the House of Representatives.

The president of the National Assembly shall be the president of the Constitutional Tribunal.

Upon the expiration or dissolution of the House of Representatives, the Constitutional Tribunal, under paragraph one, shall consist of the president of the National Assembly, the president of the Supreme Court, and the chief public prosecutor.

Article 201. A member of the Constitutional Tribunal appointed by the Senate and the House of Representatives shall not be a senator, member of the House of Representatives, member of a local assembly, member of a local administrative committee, government official holding a permanent position or receiving a salary, official of a state enterprise, or local government official.

Article 202. A member of the Constitutional Tribunal appointed by the Senate or the House of Representatives shall serve a term of four years and is eligible for reappointment.

A member of the Constitutional Tribunal whose term expires shall remain in office until a new appointment is made.

Article 203. Apart from retiring under the term of service, a member of the Constitutional Tribunal appointed by the Senate or the House of Representatives vacates his office upon:

(1) death;
(2) resignation;
(3) being disqualified under Article 201;
(4) being sentenced by a court judgment to imprisonment.

Article 204. In case of vacancy of membership of the Constitutional Tribunal appointed by the Senate or the House of Representatives due to cause other than expiration of term of office, the Senate or the House of Representatives, as the case may be, shall appoint members of the Constitutional Tribunal to fill the vacancy within 30 days.

The days prescribed in the first paragraph shall mean the day of the National Assembly in session.

Pending new appointment to fill vacancies under paragraph one, the remaining members of the Constitutional Tribunal shall perform their duties as usual.

Article 205. After a bill has been approved by the National Assembly and before the prime minister presents it to the King for signature under Article 88;

(1) If members of the Senate or House of Representatives, or members of the two houses combined numbering no less than one-fifth of the total number, are of the opinion that the bill is contrary to or inconsistent with the Constitution, or is not correctly drafted under provisions of the Constitution, they shall submit their opinion to the president of the National Assembly, the president of the Senate, or the president of the House of Representatives, as the case may be. The president of the house who received the said opinion shall then refer it to the Constitutional Tribunal for consideration and then will inform the prime minister of the matter.
(2) If the prime minister is of the opinion that the bill referred to is contrary to or inconsistent with the Constitution, or is not correctly drafted under provisions of the Constitution, he shall refer such an opinion to the Constitutional Tribunal for consideration and decision

and then will inform the presidents of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the matter.

During the study by the Constitutional Tribunal, the prime minister shall suspend the proceedings in respect of the promulgation of the bill referred to in paragraph one until the Constitutional Tribunal makes a decision. If the Constitutional Tribunal decides that such a bill is contrary to or inconsistent with the Constitution, or is not correctly drafted under provisions of the Constitution, the draft bill shall be killed.

Article 206. In applying a law to any case, if the Court is of the opinion that provisions of such law come under Article 5 and there has not yet been a decision of the Constitutional Tribunal relating to such provisions, the Court shall stay its trial and adjudication of the case and submit its opinion through proper channels to the Constitutional Tribunal for consideration and decision.

The decision of the Constitutional Tribunal shall apply to all cases but shall not affect the judgments of the Courts which are final.

Article 207. If the Cabinet, the National Assembly, the Senate, or the House of Representatives is of the opinion that any case requires a decision by the Constitutional Triunal, then the prime minister, president of the National Assembly, president of the Senate, or the speaker of the House of Representatives concerned shall refer such a case to the Constitutional Tribunal for consideration.

Article 208. A quorum for a meeting of the Constitutional Tribunal requires the attendance of at least five members.

The decision of the meeting depends on the majority except for other situations mentioned in this Constitution.

Article 209. The decision of the Constitutional Tribunal shall be deemed final and shall be published in the Royal Gazette.

Article 210. The procedure of the Constitutional Tribunal shall be in accordance with the law.

Chapter 11: Amendment of the Constitution

Article 211. An amendment of the Constitution may be made only under the rules and procedures as follows:

(1) A motion for amendment must be proposed by the Cabinet, by members of the House of Representatives of not less than one-third of the total number of members of the House of Representatives, or by members of the Senate and the House of Representatives of not less than one-third of the total number of members of the two houses. A member of the House of Representatives can submit a motion or jointly submit a motion only when the political party of that member has adopted a resolution to submit a motion.

(2) A motion for amendment must be proposed in the form of a draft Constitution amendment and the National Assembly shall consider it in three readings.

(3) The voting in the first reading for acceptance in principle shall be by open roll call and the amendment must be approved by a vote of not less than one-half of the total number of members of both houses.

(4) The voting in the second reading for consideration, article by article, shall be decided by a simple majority of votes.

(5) At the conclusion of the second reading, there shall be an intervening period of 15 days, after which the National Assembly shall proceed with its third reading.

(6) The voting in the third and final reading shall be by open roll call and the promulgation of it into the Constitution must be approved by a vote of not less than one-half of the total number of members of both houses.

(7) After the resolution has been passed in accordance with the above rules and procedures, the draft Constitution amendment shall be presented to the King and Article 88 and Article 89 shall apply.

Transitory Provisions

Article 212. From the date of the promulgation of this Constitution until the election day of the members of the House of Representatives under Article 218, the National Legislative Assembly under the Interim Charter of 1991 shall act as the National Assembly in accordance with this Constitution. But, members of the National Legislative Assembly cannot submit a draft bill under Article 137, submit an amendment of the Constitution under Article 211, raise an interpellation under Article 149, or sign a motion to call for a no- confidence debate under Article 150 or Article 151.

Provisions of Article 96 and Article 108 shall not apply to the members of the National Legislative Assembly under paragraph one.

Article 213. Provisions of Article 125, Article 126, Article 133, Article 134, and Article 135 shall be applied to the members of the National Legislative Assembly under Article 212 mutatis mutandis.

Article 214. The Privy Council having been in office before promulgation of this Constitution shall be the Privy Council under this Constitution.

Article 215. The Cabinet which has been in office prior to the promulgation of this Constitution shall be the Cabinet administering state affairs under this Constitution, and provisions of Article 162 and Article 163 shall not apply to the holding of ministerial position under this article.

After the election of members of the House of Representatives under Article 218, the term of the Cabinet referred to in paragraph one shall expire, but the Cabinet shall remain in office until the new cabinet has been formed and assumes duty.

Provisions of Article 183 and Article 191 shall not apply to the government officials who hold political positions before the new cabinet assumes office.

Article 216. After the promulgation of this Constitution, Article 7 of the Interim Charter of 1991 shall remain in effect until the appointment of senators is made in accordance with Article 217; and provisions under Articles 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 of the Interim Charter of 1991 shall continue to take effect until the new cabinet assumes office.

Article 217. At the initial stage, the King shall appoint senators whose qualifications are stipulated in Article 94, paragraph one, and of the number in accordance with Article 94, paragraph two, on the same day of the election of the members of the House of Representatives under Article 218.

The appointment of senators under paragraph one shall be countersigned by the president of the National Peacekeeping Council.

Senators appointed under paragraph one shall serve a term of four years. During the four years, Article 98 shall be applied.

Article 218. The election of members of the House of Representatives in compliance with the provisions of this Constitution shall be carried out within 120 days of the promulgation of this Constitution.

Article 219. With the enforcement of this Constitution, apart from what is stipulated in Article 156, the following events shall require the joint session of the National Assembly:

(1) holding of a general debate under Article 150;
(2) deliberations of the bills under Articles 172, 173, and 174.

In this respect, the senators shall have the same rights as those of the members of the House of Representatives, but they shall not be entitled to sign a motion, individually or in group, for opening a general debate per Article 150. The House of Representatives or the Senate referred to in Article 150, paragraph two and paragraph three, and in Articles 172, 173, and 174 are to be interpreted as the National Assembly.

Article 220. The Senate and the House of Representatives shall appoint a Constitutional Tribunal under Article 200 within 30 days from the opening of an ordinary session of the National Assembly following the election of the members of the House of Representatives under Article 218.

Article 221. Provisions under Articles 217 and 219 shall expire upon completion of four years from the date of the appointment of senators under Article 217.

Article 222. Announcements or orders issued by the National Peacekeeping Council or its leader, or amendments to the announcements or orders issued by the National Peace-Keeping Council or its leader, which took effect prior to the promulgation of this Constitution, or orders issued by the prime minister or the chairman of the National Peace-Keeping Council by virtue of Article 27 of the Interim Charter of 1991, whether they are of legislative, executive, or juridical nature, and which have been in force until the promulgation of this Constitution, those announcements and orders shall take legal effect under this Constitution. Repeal or modification, if any, of the announcements or orders which carry legislative or judicial effect shall be carried out by an act. Enactment of an act under this article shall have no effect on the work carried out by an individual or group assigned by the announcements or orders mentioned above. That individual or group shall be protected from complaints in court.

Article 223. In case of a requirement by law that a certain act must be approved by the National Assembly, the Senate, or the House of Representatives, approval by the National Legislative Assembly under the Interim Charter of 1991, or under Article 216 of this Constitution, shall be held as approval by the National Assembly, the Senate, or the House of Representatives accordingly.

Countersigned. Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, president of the National Legislative Assembly

Vietnam

Do Muoi Addresses People's Control Conference

BK2701151792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Speech by Party General Secretary Do Muoi at "recent" conference of the people's organs of control sector—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades: I would like to cordially extend to you—those comrades attending this conference held by the people's organs of control sector to review its 1991 activities—and through you, to all the cadres and members of the people's organs of control sector the best regards from the party Central Committee.

After five years of carrying out the renovation undertaking, we have attained initial yet very important successes. Of the total achievements scored by the entire country, there are positive contributions from law enforcement agencies, including the people's organs of control sector. You, comrades, have exerted great effort to perform your functions of supervising the enforcement of laws, executing your public prosecution power, intensifying your control over investigation, over court trials, over the execution of court verdicts, over corrective detention, and over complaints and denunciations in a more effective fashion, thus contributing to ensuring that investigative and juridical activities are carried out according to the law, protecting citizens' rights and legitimate interests, and initially renovating the sector's operational procedures and personnel organization.

On behalf of the party Central Committee, I welcome and cite the efforts and progress made by you, comrades. Given the requirements of your assigned duties, you have, however, still displayed many shortcomings and deficiencies. For instance, you have failed to satisfactorily examine the paperwork of various ministries, sectors, and localities in order to ensure the constitutional and legal characters of various documents. Many court cases have still been in backlog. Investigative, prosecution, and judgement efforts have remained slow. Therefore, the effect of preventive education against crimes has still been limited. Cadres of the people's organs of control sector are inadequate and weak, especially in terms of their knowledge about socioeconomic, and legal management. The sense of responsibility of a number of control cadres is not high enough and several among them have violated discipline. You comrades should come up with necessary measures to positively overcome these shortcomings in the period ahead.

Comrades: enhancing legislation and gradually building a rule of law state are an important goal in the entire renovation undertaking at present aimed at developing socialist democracy and spurring socioeconomic development in a wholesome fashion and in the right direction. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to further renovate the state apparatus in all three aspects—legislative, executive, and judicial. In the judicial field, our state has organized the people's organs of control system made up of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, people's organs of control in various localities, and military organs of control. They are organs that supervise the observance of the constitution and the laws by all sectors, echelons, social organizations, state employees, and citizens, that execute their public prosecution power, and that ensure the strict and unified enforcement of laws in the entire country. These are the duties and rights and also the honor and responsibilities entrusted to you, comrades, by the party, the state, and the people that you comrades should comply with them in a truly satisfactory fashion.

In the process of shifting from the old mechanism to the new one, we can hardly avoid shortcomings and deficiencies and these should be promptly overcome. We, however, should not ignore those committing mistakes out of their irresponsibily or those deliberately violating laws and policies. Therefore, it is necesary to resolutely detect and strictly deal with serious cases and legal offenders irrespective of their positions. Only by doing so can we contribute to purifying the party and state apparati and ameliorating social relations.

In a multisectoral economy, every citizen is free to go about his business. However, he should strictly comply with state laws and policies. All illegal business activities shall be severely punished according to the law.

We welcome the dynamism and creativity of all sectors, echelons, localities, and establishments. But we should ensure unified central control as provided for by the law. At present, due to personal gains, law violations in the society, including within various party and state organs and within mass organizations, are prevalent. Of these violations, there are many serious cases. Control efforts of various sectors and echelons, including law enforcement organs, are not strict enough and are found to have had many loopholes. In addition, corruption and bribery have been abetted, thus amounting to lending a helping hand to those who are committing criminal acts and flouting the state law.

Faced with the above situation, we should be profoundly aware of the need to reestablish public order and discipline, and to maintain and improve the efficiency of the law. This is a pressing issue at present. Law enforcement organs should be strengthened so they can deal with this problem. With the needs of the renovation undertaking, people's organs of control should play a very important role in this issue. You, comrades, should strive to satisfactorily carry out the following tasks:

—First, the control sector as a whole and all of its personnel should firmly grasp their functions of supervising the observance of the law by state organs and by all citizens. Especially, they should examine the paperwork of various sectors and echelons to ensure the unified character of law in the entire country. They should execute their public prosecution power and intensify their control over all fields of activity with the emphasis on the socioeconomic domain and should guarantee citizens' democratic liberties as defined by law.

—Supervising the observance of law is not confined merely to bringing to light and dealing with legal offenses and violators but it is important that relevant organs of control should join those organs and units under inspection in discovering loopholes and shortcomings in their management work so as to promptly recommend corrective measures for violations.

—It is necessary to point out causes leading to violations and to suggest preventive measures with relevant organs and units. This is to contribute to restoring law and order and to provide timely and realistic service for the renovation process.

—In executing their public prosecution power, people's organs of control should closely cooperate with various sectors and echelons in effectively struggling against all types of legal offenders and especially in carrying out economic management and maintaining public order and security. At the same time, they should satisfactorily carry out their control over investigative and juridical activities, over corrective detention, and over the execution of court verdicts in order to ensure that investigative, prosecution, and juridical activities are carried out according to the law and that all court verdicts and court decisions are executed properly and promptly.

—Law enforcement organs, including organs of control, should ensure the maintenance of national security and political stability and should firmly safeguard revolutionary gains.

In order to protect the law in a positive and effective way, it is necessary to intensify preventive work, trying to substantially reduce the crime rate. To achieve this aim, it is necessary to disseminate laws among the entire people and introduce legal education in schools, thus making everyone aware of laws so they can live and work according to the constitution and laws.

Satisfactorily carrying out the legal education task is a positive and most effective way to materialize at the 1990 national judicial conference what Uncle Ho said: Putting criminals on trial to punish them is necessary. But it would be better if there were no such trials.

We should, through people's councils, the Fatherland Front, and mass organizations, motivate the people to monitor and detect indications and actions of law violations in order to promptly avert them and minimize their consequences. Also, we should motivate the people to supervise various law enforcement organs, ensuring that these organs can properly execute their duties, authority, and functions as defined by law.

Law enforcement organs, including control organs, should increase their control in order to ensure prompt discovery of legal violations at the very first signs. This is to promptly avert possible serious violations and to minimize the scale, magnitude, scope, and consequences of these violations. Once a crime is detected, we should deal with it urgently and accurately—punishing the right person for his crime. At the same time, we should be highly impartial and keep ourselves fully aware of our service, trying not to allow anyone to be wrongly arrested, detained, prosecuted, and tried. As for those cases already tried, we should make public a number of cases which are deemed necessary and should pay attention to pointing out reasons for this and drawing on lessons of experience to educate the people as a preventive measure against crimes.

Regarding legal offenders, we should, on one hand, give them a fair trial in accordance with the law, while on the other hand, proceeding from our ancestors' tradition of human kindness, and from the humanitarian character of the socialist state, use reeducation as the main approach and create conditions for legal offenders to actively repent themselves and mend their ways so that when their reeducation terms expire, they will become honest citizens useful to the country. Physical and spiritual torture shall be strictly forbidden, for this will make legal offenders lose their hope and will be at variance with the goal of corrective detention.

Law enforcement organs, including control organs, should be profoundly imbued with and should demonstrate in a concrete and practical manner this spirit in executing their duties.

To fulfill its assigned duties, the organs of control sector should be built into a clean and steadfast one. The sector should continue to renovate its operational procedures and strengthen its apparatus organizationally. Control cadres should actively participate in the renovation undertaking with concrete activities. The contingent of judicial cadres, including control cadres, should be steadfast politically and should be loyal to the revolutionary undertaking, the fatherland, and the people. They should constantly cultivate their ethical qualities, improve their professional knowledge and working abilities, and steel their determination to struggle to safeguard justice and laws. They should correctly carry out the watchword that cadres and workers of the judicial sector learned from Uncle Ho: Be impartial, righteous, objective, prudent, and modest.

As far as I know, over the years the majority of control cadres have been able to overcome difficulties and ordeals confronting their daily work and life and have devoted themselves to fulfilling their duties. It is, however, regrettable that among the contingent of control cadres, there have been many people still found committing wrongdoings. Given the total number of cadres in the sector, these people are just a handful but their activities have had a negative impact on the people's respect for the law. I hope that you, comrades, will continue to set the example in keeping yourselves clean in order to improve the prestige of the judicial sector and control organs, thus deserving to be trusted by the people as officials in charge of controlling and supervising law enforcement and firmly maintaining justice.

To enable people's organs of control to fulfill their assigned duties, you, comrades, should strengthen your cooperation with public security organs, juridical organs, the administration at various levels, and mass organizations in order to generate an integrated strength for the party-led struggle to prevent and oppose law violations and crimes.

Party committee echelons should read periodic reports on the situation regarding control activities as well as their results while making suggestions on guidelines for control activities, trying to ensure that these activities are carried out according to laws and regulations established by the state.

With regard to those cases of law violations and those court cases having an extensive political impact and connected with national defense and security and foreign relations, relevant party committee echelons should give their views on how to deal with these cases. This will serve as a basis for rulings to be adopted by the organs of control and other law enforcement organs concerned. Party committee echelons should, however, not directly interfere in any special activities of law enforcement organs such as making decisions on incriminating, prosecuting or not prosecuting a person, and on the severity of penalty.

Based on reports from the organs of control concerned, relevant party committees should provide instructions or guidance for various sectors and echelons to promptly do away with violations and resolutely deal with those party cadres and members found violating the law. It is necessary to resolutely curb the bad practices of abetting wrongdoings and providing umbrella-like protection for cronies and to stop other negative phenomena as they are causing the law to become less effective and are arousing indignation among the people.

On the occasion of the new year, I would like to cordially wish all the cadres and party members of the people's organs of control sector good health with greater efforts to fulfill all the tasks assigned to them by the party and the state, thus making positive contributions to the renovation undertaking and satisfactorily implementing the resolution of the Seventh National Party Congress.

Thank you, comrades.

150,000 Workers Provided Jobs Last Year

BK0302142592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Thanks to the application of the contractual system, last year various state farms effectively resolved the unemployment problem for their cadres and workers, while creating jobs for 150,000 laborers of other economic components. Thus far, 497 state farms throughout the country have planted crops on 500,000 hectares.

Following the recent delineation of boundaries in some provinces, 150,000 hectares of land were allocated to various state farms for cultivation. Another 150,000 hectares with great protential in agriculture will be exploited in the near future when capital and the labor force are available.

The Ministries of Labor; War Invalids and Social Welfare; Agriculture and Food Industry; and Marine Products have discussed measures to effectively use the cultivated land, improve the relocation of the labor force and the population, and build more new economic zones in 1992 and subsequent years. It is imperative for these ministries to jointly formulate policies on providing capital for families and laborers who volunteer to go and work in new economic zones, on mobilizing capital to improve the infrastructure at state farms, and on creating more occupations in localities to increase production output through the mobilization of capital at home and abroad.

At present, there are many joint ventures with foreigners. These include the mulberry and dairy farms in Lam Dong and Son La Provinces; lead mine corporations in Hoa Binh, Vinh Phu, Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, and Binh Dinh Provinces; the pineapple plantation in the former Fourth Zone; and the rubber plantation in the eastern region of Nam Bo.

January Oil Production Figures Reported

BK0402012692 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 2—The Vietnam-Soviet Joint Oil and Gas Enterprise tapped 405,000 tonnes of crude oil in January, 18,000 tonnes more than planned, and achieving the highest monthly output so far.

In January the enterprise pumped an average of 13,000 tons of crude daily. General Director of the Enterprise Ngo Thuong San said that all the wells which had been left inoperative so far had resumed production.

Light Industrial Sector Increases Gross Output

BK0302100692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The light industrial sector last year increased its gross production output by 1.9 percent compared with 1990. Various enterprises attached to the sector have contributed to the state budget 154 billion dong, or 2.8-fold more than that of 1990. The sector's goods export value was estimated at 26 million rubles and $85 million.

In 1992, the light industrial sector will strive to increase its gross production output by 13.5 percent, export goods by 35 percent, and contribution to the state budget by 17.8 percent.

Agriculture Tax Exemption, Reduction Rule Issued

BK0302123192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers recently issued a decree on the reduction and exemption of agricultural tax. The decree stipulated that in case of natural calamity or serious crop damage, consideration must be taken on the actual yield collected by the peasants to determine the rate of tax reduction.

The decision to grant a tax reduction to agricultural cooperatives and their members working on the contractual basis as well as to agricultural production collectives must be based on the severity of damage caused by natural calamity to their crops as stipulated in the Council of Ministers' decree dated 27 May 1989.

Tax reduction for areas planting long-term crops and short-term industrial crops will be calculated in the spirit of this decree. Tax exemption for newly reclaimed land will be granted until the area in question engages in its first crop. In case of natural calamity or serious damage to crops, agricultural tax reduction or exemption will be granted on a crop by crop basis.

This decree will be effective as of the 1992 agricultral tax year. Other regulations which are at variance with this decree will be rescinded.

Hanoi TV Reports 1991, 1992 Tax Collection Work

BK0302122792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Summary] "In 1991, the national taxation service collected 5,800 billion dong, reaching 140 percent of the plan. The increase in revenue is due to an increase in production, taxpayers' willingness, and the good service of the taxation office."

The collection of taxes from state enterprises, agricultural production, and lotteries was high. In particular, the central state enterprises contributed 64 percent of the 1991 total of taxes collected. That also confirms the leading role of the state economic sector in our economy. Moreover, the completion of the 1991 tax collection targets in different localities is more than in previous years. Out of 49 cities and provinces, 46 of them completed the yearly plan, including 15 localities which completed the collection targets in state and non-state economic units.

Due to the active change to the market-mechanism, production from the state sector increased, thus making tax collection from this sector also increase. However, the tax collection from the non-state sector only reached 98 percent of the plan.

Comrade Phan Van Tinh, commissioner of the Taxation Department, stated the following on the taxation work for 1992:

[Begin Phan Van Tinh recording] "In 1992, the taxation service is entrusted with a more formidable task. That is to collect 13,000 billion dong in tax. Compared with the 1991 target, the collection work is increased by more than 200 percent."

In order to accomplish that, the taxation service must strengthen measures to collect more taxes, including more checking on business organizations and adjusting the amount of taxes paid by the business.

In 1992, the taxation service will continue to maintain taxation investigation teams for countering tax evasion and quickly implement tax laws and regulations approved by the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers, including the recently approved import-export tax law.

Also in the coming year, we will continue to consolidate and purify the contingent of taxation officers, including the professional training work and rearrangement of taxation officers at grassroots levels.

In 1992, we will coordinate with all levels, sectors, people's committees of cities, provinces, as well as districts to widely disseminate the government taxation policy to all levels, sectors, and the public. [end recording]

Vietnam Airlines Expanding Foreign Market

BK0302073192 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 3—More and more foreigners are coming to Vietnam by air and cargo flights are becoming more regular. This marks a great change in economic development strategies in Vietnam, including for Vietnam Airlines.

At present, at the two international airports—Noi Bai Airport (in Hanoi) and Tan Son Nhat (in Ho Chi Minh City), flights are dirently connected to 20 airports and have indirect connections to hundreds of cities around the world. Many airlines in France, Germany, the former Soviet Union, Australia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Kampuchea have regular (occasional, in some cases) flights to Vietnam.

In 1989-1990, Vietnam Airlines transported 37 percent of a total of 600,000 passengers bound to Vietnam and 11 percent of 10,000 tonnes of the cargo. Its transportation of passengers doubled in comparison with the period 1985-1988 (only 13 percent of 300,000 passengers).

Building on its main markets from Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia (accounting for 70 percent), Vietnam Airlines plans to increase the frequency of flights in the region. A great deal of attention has been paid to important routes, such as Ho Chi Minh City Bangkok, Hanoi-Bangkok-Singapore-Kuala Lumpur-Ho Chi Minh City-Phnom Penh Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi-Hong Kong Hanoi-Nanking, and Hanoi-Beijing Ho Chi Minh City-Jakarta. [punctuation in preceding sentence as received] In the years of 1992, 1993, Vietnam Airlines hopes medium and long-range flights Ho Chi Minh City-Melbourne, Sydney Ho Chi Minh City-Hanoi-Paris, Japan, South Korea, Germany and North America will be regularly scheduled. More regular cargo flights can now carry fresh food, vegetables, and seafood to Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Japan and Taiwan, and light industrial and handicraft items to Europe.

On October 15, 1991, the route of Ho Chi Minh City-Hong Kong and vice-versa was started.

Effort is being concentrated on the upgrade of the Tan Son Nhat Airport in order to meet the increasing arrivals of foreigners which is expected to be 1.5 million by 1995. At the same time, investment cooperation is made by Olympic Champion Investment Ltd in Hong Kong to modernize Noi Bai International Airport to receive 3.5 million passengers per year.

Vietnam Airlines will cooperate with the tourist companies in the country and abroad in order to increase the number of booking agents (at present they are 54) and establish its booking offices in foreign countries as well.

Draft Amendments to Constitution Examined

BK0402035192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 31 Jan 92

["Talk of the Week" feature]

[Text] The entire Vietnamese people are engaged in two major tasks: preparing for the traditional lunar new year festival and making suggestions for the revised constitution.

The amendment to the 1980 constitution is necessary because the old constitution refers to bureaucracy and state subsidies of more than a decade ago. This constitution is no longer suitable to the present multi-sector economy and the new market structure. People from all walks of life in Hanoi have taken part in the discussions organized by the Fatherland Front committee or have sent letters to the municipal people's committee to contribute positive suggestions to specific chapters and articles of the draft constitution with their only aim to make people prosperous and the country powerful.

The Fatherland Front committee in Ho Chi Minh City also organized discussions among intellectuals or heads of scientific branches to contribute highly responsible suggestions to the draft constitution.

Almost all of them agreed that the draft constitution is in keeping with the will and aspirations of the people and with the needs of the country during its renovation process. However, there remain many points which need to be modified to make it more appropriate to current conditions.

For his part, ex-diplomat Dinh Nho Liem said the discussion of the draft constitution at this time is a very important political event as it is a chance for average citizens and every party member to exert their responsibility and knowledge. At the same time, it is a chance for the Vietnamese people to advance toward democratic socialism and to exercise their right to participation. Amending the 1980 constitution is also a chance for the Communist Party of Vietnam to renovate its guiding policies and a chance for different policies and localities to exploit their strengths and weaknesses. This participation at different levels of society will consolidate people's confidence in socialism. It is also a bridge linking the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause with the struggle for peace, independence, democracy, and development in Asia-Pacific and the rest of the world.

Journalist Nguyen Viet Thanh pointed out that by its nature the draft constitution is a socialist one determining that the Vietnamese state is of the people, by the people, and for the people, with the workers' and peasants' alliance with intellectuals as the foundation and with the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The draft constitution is a legal document acknowledging the revolutionary gains of the past half century. It will ensure that the Vietnamese people overcome all difficulties to achieve the goals adopted by the Communist Party of Vietnam for socio-economic development by the year 2000, thus building a socialist, powerful, and prosperous Vietnam.

Needy People Receive State Funds on New Year

BK3001101592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] On the occasion of the Nham Than [Year of the Monkey] New Year, Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong sent gifts worth 141 million dong to 750 recipients comprising grade 1 crippled or sick soldiers, dependents of fallen combatants, and individuals who have rendered meritorious services to the revolution and now receive public assistance from Quang Nam-Da Nang Province.

To create more conditions for social welfare recipients to celebrate the New Year, leading officials in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province decided to assist them with a two-billion-dong aid package. On the average, each beneficiary will receive 20,000 dong.

The province also spent nearly 300 million dong purchasing 150 tonnes of food to be donated to those elderly people whose families are short of manpower, orphans, the handicapped, families with too many children to care for, and compatriot fishermen in coastal areas who really need help.

Article Examines Causes of Socialist Defeat

BK3101103792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Article by Doan Chuong: "A Great Lesson of the Era"]

[Text] The year 1989 was called the year of Eastern Europe by the international press. The year 1991 could be called the year of the Soviet Union. The events of November 1917 are called the ten days that shook the world. From 19 to 24 August 1991 were seven days of global turmoil. What happened? Unprecedented socio-political changes have shattered the Soviet Union, a great achievement of the historic October Revolution and the citadel of world peace and revolution. The red flag was removed from the Kremlin palace on Christmas night 1991. Never before were the enemies so boastful and the revolutionaries so painful as they are now. An anticommunist fever took hold and spread throughout the world.

During the revolution, one day was as long as 20 while the collapse of the 70-year-old Soviet Union was completed in only seven days. It would sound more correct to say it was the collapse of a 70-story building, making it understandable that this caused a shock. Everything has a cause and the cause here is really complex. Yet, we can visualize it as follows: First, termites erode the foundation. Everyone knows that once termites forage through all the pillars and beams of a building up to the roof, a collapse is inevitable. Second, a miss is as good as a mile.

Once mistakes concerning the fundamental lines have been committed, the consequences are unpredictable. Third, experience concerning betrayers of the revolution and resistance has shown that once a revolutionary has betrayed the ideal and his party, he is always dangerous and even crazier than actual anticommunist people.

As for the collapse happening at the revolutionary center, it is not difficult to understand. On the imperialist side, the United Kingdom once declared that the sun never set on its kingdom; Hitler also arrogantly claimed that the Germans were a superior race. As for Japan, it was the Greater East Asia doctrine. The current antirevolutionary center is in the United States. Germany was once the revolutionary center. However, due to the betrayal of (Bernstein) and Kautsky during the Second International, the revolutionary center was shifted to Russia with Lenin, a teacher of the world revolution.

The fact that some epochal betrayers caused the disappearance of this central position is nothing historic. High and low tides in the revolution are natural. We can learn from successes as well as from defeats with the defeats sometimes carrying greater significance because they contribute to the encyclopedia of the revolution. The collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union was a big defeat of the revolution in the present era. It has of course brought about a great lesson of the era. It will be long before we have exploited all aspects of the defeat. Nevertheless, we can draw the following essential lessons:

1. It is crystal clear that the fact of who defeated whom is an inevitable law of the time of transition from capitalism to socialism. When the socialist regime collapsed in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the imperialists and reactionaries loudly claimed that the good times for socialism were over. Some people wondered whether or not today's era is still the period of transition to socialism. As a matter of fact, time is the objective process of human society. It does not depend on the subjective desire of mankind. The political and social changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have all the more clearly demonstrated the principle of who defeated whom as its inevitable law. The revolution is not a straight path at all but is full of thorns and tortuous difficulties.

The era of upheaval by oppressed nations to liberate themselves was opened by the Great October Socialist Revolution. Imperialism lost an important position. Some 14 imperialist countries pooled their forces to intervene in order to nip socialism in the bud but they failed. It was their first double defeat. Until World War II, imperialists fought one another and then attacked socialism, but finally socialism developed into a world system. They again suffered a double defeat. Bitterly defeated, they knew how to draw on experience and won a definite victory this time. As for the revolutionary side, it has given in to subjectivity and lost vigilance because of successive victories. As far back as in 1959, there was already an argument saying that socialism had triumphed not only totally but also positively which meant that capitalism could no longer be restored. Subjectivity and loss of vigilance were deep causes leading to defeat this time.

There is another aspect here to which we should pay attention: Socialism has proved to possess vigorous vitality in war, either in war of liberation, civil war, or world war. However, it lacks sharpness in peaceful struggle.

Wiping out socialism has been a consistent objective in the imperialist struggle for survival and it was conducted at times militarily and at times peacefully but usually in a combined manner to different extents of intensity. When the imperialists still had military superiority, they mainly used their military and war, evidently without considering lightly a combination of other measures. However, they were defeated militarily and obviously, also suffered inefficiency in some other respects. When they lost military superiority and especially when they reached an equilibrium in the strategic balance, and when they succeeded in capitalizing on the results of the scientific and modern technological revolution to create new economic and technical achievements, the imperialists shifted to mainly applying the peaceful evolution strategy to destroy from the inside out in combination with using envelopment, embargo, and military deterrence to exert pressure from the outside. Evidently, they have never neglected the military aspect because belligerence is inherent in imperialism.

We are used to coping with war and have more or less gained some experience in this domain. However, peaceful evolution is still new to us. Through realities in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, we can see that the main formula of peaceful evolution is political pluralism plus a free market economy in which political pluralism is the breakthrough. Peaceful evolution is in fact a drive against the revolution and peace. Its objective remains power. Political pluralism applied by the enemies to socialist countries is in fact meant to depose and prevent the communist party from ruling.

The maneuvers of peaceful evolution are quite subtle and complex. On the one hand, it imposed a blockade and embargo to prevent the acquisition of capital and advanced technology, as well as to interfere with economic development. At the same time, it posed a military threat and compelled huge spending for national defense, and the possibility of armament, intervention, or aggression could not be ruled out. On the other, more insidiously, a combined and multifaceted offensive is being staged involving ideology, politics, and culture, especially in this era of explosive information.

They propagate the idea of bourgeois liberty and democracy; infiltrate the pragmatic Western lifestyle; exploit the shortcomings and mistakes of the revolutionary side; instigate contradictions and dissatisfaction; revolve around the questions of freedom and democracy, economy, livelihood, nationalities, and religions, and so forth; create opposition and force in society and within the very party; erode confidence and divide the party; neutralize all tools of dictatorship; disturb security to implement political pluralism through the best way of making the party degenerate itself and change its color and character, or by using the pressure of opposition forces and other pressure to force the ruling communist party to accept political pluralism, and then, through so-called free elections depose by all means the communist party, and then seize and use the power as a tool to restore capitalism.

2. Who defeats whom constitutes an objective law. The development of its effect depends on the specific historic conditions. Here, we should outline the lesson of building our socialist regime. Socialism is not a mistake of history condemned by imperialists and reactionaries. It is a law of history. Socialism is charged with the historic mission of positively liberating society, nations, and man. This is a dream of mankind. However, it is not easy to design and build such a society. From its start as a scientific and revolutionary idea socialism has become a reality for 70 years or more now and a world system for over 40 years. It has turned many generally backward countries into modern ones. One country has become a superpower like the Soviet Union. It has clearly proved its vigorous vitality in ordeals of various types of war—civil war, war of liberation, and even world war. It has saved mankind from the danger of fascism and practically contributed to protecting world peace. It has promoted and paved the way for the liberation of oppressed and exploited nations in this era. With its true force and its world system, socialism has borne a positive effect on world politics. It can be said that changes and progress in today's era have all borne the seal, effect, and influence of socialism.

The high sense of centrality and internationalism are strengths of socialism that have brought into play the positive effect on the abovementioned historic achievements under the conditions of being surrounded and fiercely opposed by imperialism. Yet, the dialectics of things are that—just as a French slogan says—advantages might lead to shortcomings if they are absolutized and applied not to the right place at the right moment.

The high sense of centrality being absolutized and applied not to the right place nor at the right moment has restricted democracy and eliminated the characteristics of the specific departure points of each individual country. For example: We have uniformly and quickly wiped out private ownership and implemented public ownership in large segments of the public while the production force is still weak.

In the same way, the abuse of internationalism has influenced the nations' right to self-determination and created the counter-effect of depriving nationalism of a substrate on which to develop. It also affects the self-reliance of nations and generates a psychology of dependence on others. Also in the same way, if we overemphasize the class struggle while being surrounded and opposed, even though we have not paid adequate attention to heightening vigilance and we have neglected the development of production forces—which is another important aspect of the struggle of who defeats whom—we will miss the opportunity of applying the new achievements of the scientific and modern technology revolution to promoting economic development.

Reflecting carefully on the current socialist crisis, we can see the deep causes of these issues. Building socialism is after all building a regime of the laboring people's mastery and the new regime must create higher labor productivity in order to triumph over the old regime. Since realistic socialism has been built in those countries with low departure points and for not long enough periods, it is not easy to create higher labor productivity than that of the old regime. From the two standpoints above, the regime of realistic socialism is still rife with shortcomings and weaknesses.

Democracy and living standards are two weak points of our regime on which the enemies intend to capitalize to carry out their peaceful evolution. As long as the laboring people have not truly exercised their mastery and their lives are still rife with difficulties, it is difficult to ask them to love, resolutely build, and protect the regime. Just reflect on the deep meaning of what our ancestors said: The people can rock the boat and capsize it as well. These two points are not only weak points that the enemies have usually exploited and taken advantage of but also are the objective environment for such evils as bureaucratism and corruption which exist in the party and state mechanisms. As a result, to oppose peaceful evolution and make our regime firm and strong, our party and state cannot help but pay attention to these two vital points.

Fiji

Australian Foreign Minister Criticized on Agenda

BK0402072092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, has been criticized over the agenda for talks he is having in Fiji today. The man who led the 1987 coups, now-retired Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, had accused Senator Evans of breaking protocol in talking to all political parties in Fiji. From Suva, Graeme Dobell reports that Sen. Evans has replied that Australia could work with Gen. Rabuka if it has to.

[Begin Dobell recording] Gen. Rabuka, now head of the Fijian Political Party, told local reporters he was not keen on having his meeting with Sen. Evans later today. The general said he did not want the talks, it was Sen. Evans who had asked [him] to the discussion. Gen. Rabuka said Sen. Evans had breached protocol by setting up his own meetings in Suva, rather than having the program set by the Fiji Government.

Australia's foreign minister says he is meeting Gen. Rabuka because he has left the Army and now heads a key political party. Sen. Evans said Australia would be able to work with Gen. Rabuka if he wins government in the elections scheduled for the middle of the year; governments have to deal with the world as they find it. As well as his talks with Fiji's interim government and Gen. Rabuka, Sen. Evans is meeting leaders of three other political parties.

The Fiji Labor Party said it will be calling on Australia not to recognize the coming elections because they would be held on a racially-based constitution. [end recording]

Papua New Guinea

Government Denies Bougainville Village Shelled

LD0302201892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1900 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government has denied claims one of its patrol boats has shelled a rebel-held village on Bougainville Island. Michael Troy says the secessionists' Radio Free Bougainville broadcast a plea for international help, saying they were under attack and many people were dying.

[Begin Troy recording] The broadcast was picked up by ham radio operators as far away as the United States. The PNG Government admits there has been fighting in the village of (Raulravana) but claims feuding Bougainville Revolutionary Army sections are responsible. A spokesman for the National Disaster Committee says about 500 villagers fled the fighting, in which at least five people died. He says the patrol boat was sent in to rescue the women and children who put to sea in small boats. Another coastal vessel is also helping in the rescue operation.

The government spokesman described the reports of the patrol boat firing at the village as disinformation from Radio Free Bougainville. Michael Troy, Port Moresby. [end recording]

Emergency Center Set Up

BK0402054992 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] An emergency center has been set up on the north coast of Papua New Guinea's Bougainville Island to house hundreds of village people fleeing renewed fighting. Rebels of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] have been fighting for independence for the island for the past few years. Michael Troy reports from Port Moresby that claims and counterclaims are now being made over who is responsible for the attack on Bougainville's (Raulravana) village which prompted the people to flee.

[Begin Troy recording] Papua New Guinea prime minister, Rabbie Namaliu, has denied BRA claims that patrol boats yesterday fired on (Raulravana) village. He says the security forces have not engaged in any combat or incidents with the BRA and are devoting their resources to rescuing the fleeing villagers.

Mr Namaliu said so far more than 100 have been plucked from the sea by patrol boats while hundreds of others have walked to the Emergency Care Center set up at Wakunai.

Meanwhile, the Honiara-based spokesperson for the BRA has rejected the prime minister's explanation, saying the Army is simply preparing for an invasion. [end recording]

Agreement With Bougainville Leaders

LD0402094192 Wellington Radio New Zealand International in English 0800 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] The Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government and leaders from southern Bougainville have signed an agreement designed to ensure peace and speed up restoration in the south of the troubled island. The agreement, between PNG Foreign Minister Sir Michael Somare and southern Bougainville leader Anthony Anugu, opens the way for the restoration of education, medical supplies, and government services to the south. PNG would also help set up an interim government for the region and a reserve police force.

The southern delegation represents about one-third of the island's population. Mr. Anugu says Bougainville's secessionist crisis can only be solved through negotiations and he has distanced himself from the hardline Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA], which is active in the center of the island.

The agreement now leaves central Bougainville the only region on the island where the Papua New Guinea Government has been unable to restore services.

The BRA is reported to have been involved in a violent clash with (?villagers) over the past three days, but it says that government forces provoked the violence.

[Melbourne Radio Australia in English at 0800 GMT on 4 February adds the following: "Radio Australia's Port Moresby office reports the document will now be taken back to Bougainville to be endorsed by local chiefs in the south before formally taking effect. Sir Michael Somare said he was confident the agreement would bring a lasting peace to Bougainville."]

Vanuatu

France Asked To Join Regional Air Surveillance

BK0302105892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Report by Robert Holloway]

[Text] Port Vila, Feb 3 (AFP)—In a move reflecting a new direction in foreign policy, the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu asked France Monday to join Australia in air surveillance of its territorial waters, Prime Minister Maxime Carlot said.

Speaking to reporters immediately after meeting French Vice-Admiral Francois Querat, Carlot said: "We have had a lot of problems with surveillance of our economic zone."

Carlot is Vanuatu's first French-speaking prime minister of the former New Hebrides condominium in 11 years of independence from joint British and French rule.

He said Australia had "done a very good job" patrolling his country's 680,000 square kilometres (272,000 square miles) of sea from the air, but added that "Pacific waters are wide."

Carlot said he had "asked the Admiral this morning" to study a request to join Australia and "the French are studying our request carefully."

Querat is Commander in Chief of French maritime forces in the South Pacific.

Earlier Monday, Carlot conferred with Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, who told reporters "we are happy to develop coordination programmes with the French in South Pacific countries particularly in areas of disaster relief."

France and Australia both sent military aircraft to Vanuatu after Cyclone Betsy caused wide-spread damage last month to some of the 80 islands in the archipelago. Australia has for years been overflying the area with P3 Orion aircraft operating from bases in Australia.

France began flights from French Polynesia and New Caledonia over Fiji after Australia suspended cooperation following the 1987 military coups in Suva.

Carlot, who was speaking in English, said: "Vanuatu will always need the help of Australia and France to exercise sovereignty in its waters.

"The country which has a land area of less than 12,000 square kilometres (4,800 square miles) and a population of barely 150,000 is among the poorest in the world with gross domestic product of 196 million Australian dollars (147 million U.S.)," he said.

Since the general election on December 2, which ended 11 years of uninterrupted rule by the predominantly anglophone Vanua'aku Party and brought Carlot's Union of Moderate Parties to power, Vanuatu has begun to turn towards France.

But Carlot insisted his government did not want to throw itself into the arms of France, although it had also asked Paris to reopen a mission in Port Vila to join Australia, New Zealand, Britain and China with full diplomatic representation.

"We are the only independent bi-lingual nation in the region," he said.

Evans described the purpose of his 25-hour visit as "making clear to the new government that it is business as usual."

"We do not have any anxiety about a Francophone Government," Evans said, but added: "We understand that there will be differences in priority and we are relaxed about that."

Carlot dismissed speculation which had flowed from a recent official visit by members of his government to New Caledonia, where the loyalist Rally for Caledonia in the Republic (RPCR) had supported his election in Vanuatu.

Vanuatu under Anglican Priest Walter Lini was vocal in supporting independence for New Caledonia and the aims of the Kanak National Socialist Liberation Front (FLNKS).

Carlot said that sending a delegation to New Caledonia was not an endorsement of the territory remaining forever French.

"We want to do business with New Caledonia," he said, "and to do that we need the permission of the central government which is France."

As there was no active mission in Port Vila, the French envoy having been expelled by the Lini administration, New Caledonia offered the closest point of contact with France, he said.